

CEO Impact Report

When we first dreamed up Izibalo, we knew one thing for certain: mathematics changes futures. In South Africa, fewer than 2 in 10 learners pass pure mathematics in Grade 12. Too often, learners are encouraged to switch to mathematical literacy as early as Grade 10, not because they lack potential, but because of overcrowded classrooms, limited support, and discouragement make the subject feel out of reach despite this choice closing doors. Pure mathematics is the gateway to careers in engineering, medicine, and science. It builds resilience, discipline, and problem-solving skills that stretch far beyond the classroom.

That is why Izibalo was born. Our name means “mathematics” or “counting” in isiXhosa and from the very beginning in 2022, our mission has been clear: to ensure that learners in under-resourced schools are not left behind. We started small, with a pilot project at Gompo Library. There, alongside our COO, Edumisa Mtali, and our very first tutors, young, unemployed graduates from the community, we saw the difference personalised maths support could make. From those early days in Duncan Village, Gompo, and Buffalo Flats, Izibalo began to grow. By 2023, our work was recognised with the 9th Border Kei Chamber of Business Inspiration Award. This was proof that our model was not only working, but inspiring others.

Since then, Izibalo has reached over 350 learners and supported dozens of volunteers and young tutors. Our model combines daily maths tutoring, mentorship, play-based learning, and educator upskilling, all underpinned by strong community partnerships. Today, we run three key programmes:

- Maths Tutoring Centre (Grade 8-12): Fully resourced, solar-powered container classroom that provides intensive maths tutoring in small groups, using a 1:8 tutor-to-learner ratio.
- Numeracy Project (Grade 1-3): Building the early foundations of number sense and problem-solving so that learners start their maths journey with confidence, using a 1:4 tutor-to-learner ratio.
- Teacher Development Project: Empowering educators with the tools and training they need to inspire learners in classrooms across the Eastern Cape.

At the heart of Izibalo is not just maths, it's people. We believe in creating opportunities for unemployed graduates and youth, training them as tutors, and equipping them with the professional skills to one day further their careers. We believe in parents, teachers, and communities working together to raise the next generation of problem solvers. Most importantly, we believe in the children themselves and their ability to not just “get through” maths, but to thrive in it.

Looking back at our journey, I am humbled by how far we have come in such a short time. Looking ahead, I am energised by how much more we can achieve. With every learner who stays in pure maths, we are shaping future engineers, doctors, scientists, and teachers. With every tutor we train, we are investing in South Africa's future workforce. With every partnership, we are proving that change is possible when a community comes together.

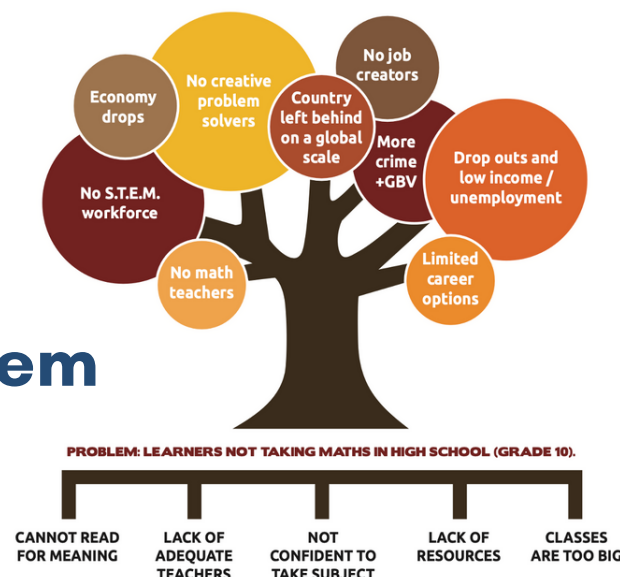
Izibalo is not just about doing maths. It is about building futures and we are only just getting started.

Lynn Glover

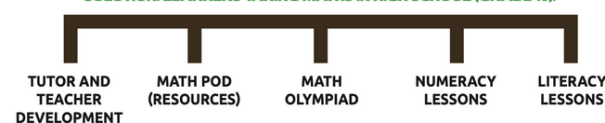


Theory of Change

the problem



the solution



Our Journey in Numbers

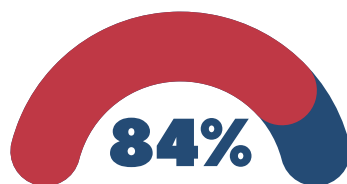
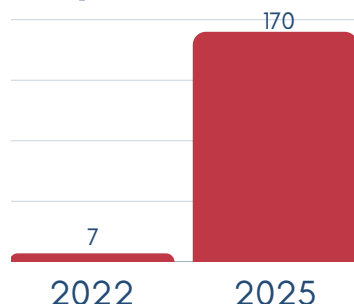
357

learners taught
since 2022



Partnered with 8
schools across East
London

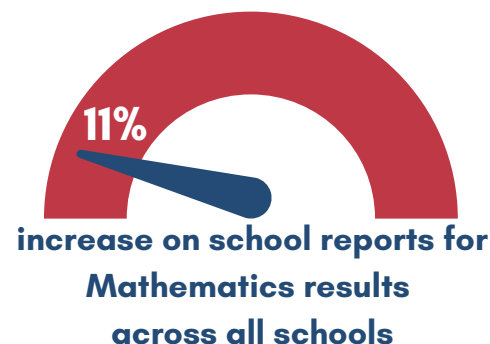
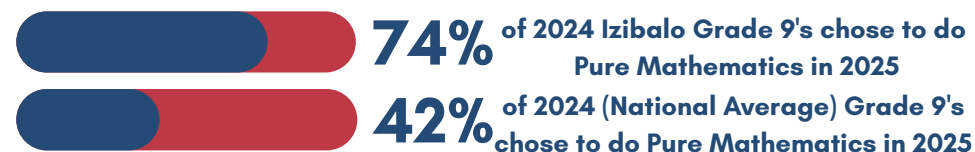
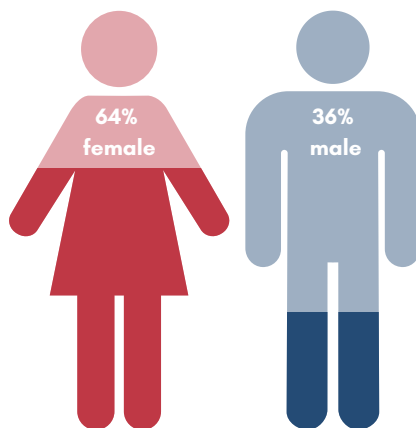
Number of learners that are
apart of Izibalo



individual learner
attendance rate
in 2024



hours taught
since 2022



100 learners
taught per
container
classroom

learners impacted
since the beginning

1:40+
teacher to learner
ratio in EC Foundation
Phase classrooms

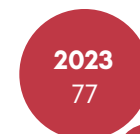
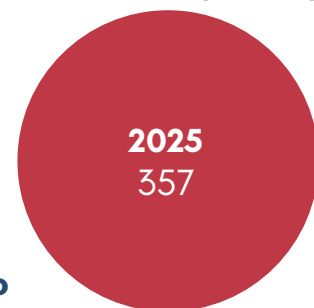
1:70+
teacher to learner
ratio in EC Senior &
FET classrooms

1:8
Grade 8-12 tutor to
learner ratio



tutors have
recived job offers
in careers of their
choice

1:4
Numeracy tutor to
learner ratio



Student Spotlight:

Thimna Boo!

“ I will always be very grateful for what Izibalo did for me. ”



Thimna joined Izibalo in 2022 as one of our very first learners. Although she had always enjoyed mathematics, the transition into high school brought new challenges, and she entered the programme with 30% (Level 2) for mathematics. With the dedicated support of her tutors, who worked patiently to rebuild her mathematical foundations and techniques, her marks began to improve steadily. Starting out at the Gomo Library pilot centre, Thimna journeyed with Izibalo through to the launch of the container classroom at Greenpoint Secondary School in 2024. By the time she matriculated that same year, she had lifted her mathematics to 67% (Level 5) and excelled in her other subjects, achieving distinctions in Accounting, Economics, and Business Studies. Today, Thimna is studying towards a BComm Accounting degree at her dream university, University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. She has her sights set on becoming a future chartered accountant.

Student Spotlight:

Sizani twins



Iviwe & Mbonge have been part of the Izibalo programme for the past year and a half, and their progress has been remarkable. They are recipients of the Glynn Ramoo Bursary Fund. When they first joined, they were already achieving strong marks in mathematics. Through dedication and the support of their tutors, they have lifted their marks by a further 15%. Beyond maths, they have noticed significant improvement in other subjects, particularly English and overall reading skills. They speak highly of their experience with Izibalo, sharing how much they value the tutors for their patience, skill, and constant willingness to help.

“ My experience in Izibalo has been amazing. What I love about the programme is the tutors. They are amazing, they are understanding, and they love helping us students. It has been an honour to be with Izibalo. ”

Student Spotlight:

Nikita Mzamo

Nikita joined Izibalo in 2024 as a Grade 8 learner with a Level 5 (60–69%) in mathematics. Through hard work and consistent effort, she quickly rose to become one of the programme’s most committed learners. In her Grade 9 year, she was proudly recognised as the Most Dedicated Learner at Ebenezer Majombozi High School. Today, she has lifted her mathematics to a Level 7 (80% and above), a testament to her perseverance and passion for learning.



Student Spotlight:

Glynese Le-Keur

“ Izibalo has been a great experience. The tutors really try their best to help us understand mathematics better. Since I started by izibalo i have been more confident in my mathematics and my marks have never been better. ”



Glynese joined Izibalo in 2024 as a Grade 8 learner, starting with an already impressive 88% (Level 7) for mathematics. Through her dedication and consistent effort, she lifted her results to 92% by the end of the year. Known for her curiosity and determination, she engages fully in her lessons, always asking questions and ensuring her work is completed to the best of her ability. With her love for mathematics and strong work ethic, Glynese is well on her way to achieving even greater success in the years ahead.

What our tutors are saying

At the heart of Izibalo are our tutors; a dedicated team based in our container classroom and across schools in Buffalo Flats and Parkside. Each of them brings passion, energy, and a strong commitment to helping learners unlock their potential in mathematics.

Our tutors are more than just subject guides; they are mentors and role models. Earlier this year, they attended an Interpersonal Development and Safeguarding workshop, equipping them with skills to not only teach effectively but also to support, encourage, and protect the learners in their care. This investment ensures that our tutors continue to grow as individuals while giving their very best to every child they work with.

Here's what some of them have to say about their journey with Izibalo:

My favourite part is that I get to be around the learners and get to be recharged irrespective of what I have been through prior to the arrival of learners. I have gained knowledge and experience in tutoring as a skill.

I know learners last year whose attitude and performance was not good but suddenly there is a massive shift in attitude and focus and their performance just got higher and higher.

It has been absolutely amazing. The program structure is absolutely brilliant and has definitely been made easy for children to learn.

Working with the learners is the most rewarding job. Even on the difficult days, you know you're making a difference.

My favourite part about being a tutor at Izibalo is working directly with the learners and seeing their excitement when they finally grasp a concept. I also enjoy being part of a supportive team that shares the same passion for education. It feels rewarding to know we're creating a positive impact together.



What have our participants done



On Mandela Day 2024, our container classroom at Greenpoint Secondary School was given a fresh new look thanks to paint donated by Burmeister's and the helping hands of Daily Dispatch volunteers and community members. To make the space their own, learners stamped their handprints on the outside of the container. The day was a true celebration of community, collaboration, and creating a space where learners feel at home.

Top-achieving Izibalo learners from Grades 9 toured the Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing Plant in East London. The visit gave them a glimpse of world-class engineering and how maths connects to real-world innovation. Meeting professionals showed them the value of resilience and problem-solving in STEAM fields. The experience inspired learners to see mathematics as a pathway to future opportunities.



On Mandela Day 2025, Izibalo hosted an awards ceremony celebrating learners who achieved Siyavula Mastery and those who excelled as top achievers in the programme. Donors were also recognised for their invaluable support in making these successes possible. The event reflected the shared effort that drives Izibalo forward; learners, educators, and partners working together for success.

Izibalo learners had the opportunity to take part in the Maths Olympiad, gaining valuable exposure to academic competition. As part of our Teacher Development initiative, Grade 8 and 9 staff and 17 learners from Khusile Comprehensive School joined the programme. This collaboration between schools, tutors, and learners strengthens mathematics education in our community.



Finance Report

Izibalo began from humble beginnings. Through our donor support, adoption of sound financial policies and despite the challenging economic climate, Izibalo has successfully established a turnkey container classroom and sustained the project for the past three years.

Looking ahead, the focus for the next three years is on building financial reserves, with a target of securing six months of core organisational costs to safeguard against emergencies.

Income Statement	Year-ending 30 June 2025	Year-ending 30 June 2024
Donations Received	R1 783 147	R1 531 389
Expenditure	-R1 541 113	-R1 005 905
Investment Income	R33 729	R30 376
Surplus	R275 273	R555 860

Balance Sheet	Jun 30, 2025	Jun 30, 2024
Fixed & Tangible Assets	R370 083	R465 272
Other & Reserves	R452 315	R127 432
Total Assets	R822 398	R592 704

