

WELCOME TO THE

# help2read

improving lives through literacy

2023

ANNUAL REVIEW



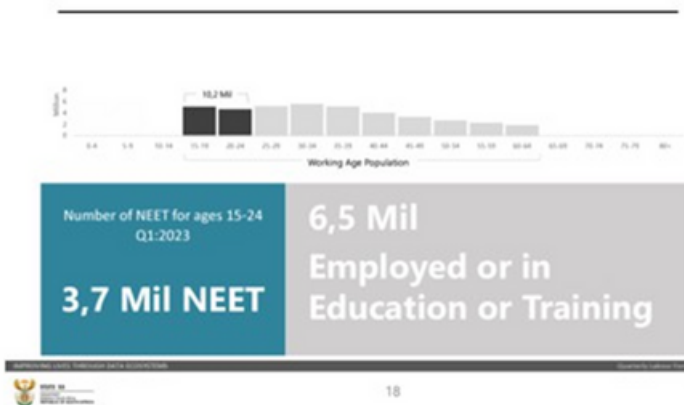
You are reading our publication because you have an interest in our work

# OUR PURPOSE

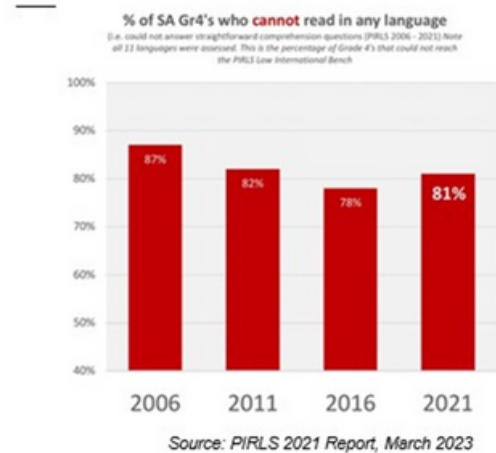
Help2read has the dual purpose of addressing the lack of work readiness skills and relevant experience in unemployed young people living in disadvantaged and under-resourced township communities while simultaneously addressing the poor English literacy skills of Primary School children.

Two relevant national problems define the context within which help2read works in South Africa.

**1** Approximately 3.7 million (36.1%) out of 10,2 million young people aged 15-24 were not in employment, education or training (NEET) in the first quarter of 2023.



**2** The results from the most recent Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS), showed that in 2021, 81% (78% in 2016) of South African Grade 4 learners could not read for meaning in any language.





# THIS IS WHO WE ARE

## Our Mission

We work primarily in townships and informal settlements in the Western Cape (Winelands, Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain) and Gauteng (Diepsloot). Our mission is to support nation-building through reading development and youth employment.

## Our Vision

Help2read brings to life its vision of empowered, literate, and employed South Africans through its Literacy for Livelihoods Project. This Project emphasises the ability to read and comprehend to become a functional and participatory member of our South African society.



# THIS IS WHO WE ARE

## Our Objectives

Help2read implements and replicates a high-quality reading support programme that brings together literacy development for learners, work readiness skills development for unemployed young people, and community engagement through parent literacy training. Our objectives, amongst others include:

- Recruits and trains unemployed youth (age 19-29) as Literacy Tutors.
- Provides sustained one-on-one reading assistance to primary school learners (grades 2-4, age 6-11) to improve their reading skills, confidence, comprehension, and a love for reading.
- Creates safe and supportive spaces through holiday and reading clubs where children can enhance their reading abilities in a fun and interactive manner.
- Equip Literacy Tutors with work readiness skills, financial literacy, communication, and time management skills to enhance their abilities and empower them for further educational opportunities or employment and entrepreneurship.
- Encourages and involves parents to participate in workshops to integrate practical literacy techniques into daily life at home and interactive mechanism for embedding a culture a reading at school and at the local community level.





# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

help2read has accomplished the following:

## Development of young people

Focussing on empowering unemployed young people in South Africa by offering them contract employment opportunities to lead literacy support activities in local schools. This provides a pathway for participants to gain valuable work experience and receive a stipend, aiming to alleviate poverty and promote personal and professional development. The Programme encompasses work readiness and professional skills training alongside weekly personal life skills training spanning at least ten months. Key areas covered include teamwork, communication, time management, financial literacy, decision-making, starting a nonprofit, job application and interview skills, preparing participants for future workforce integration or the initiation of community ventures.

## Impact

39  
help2read Literacy  
Tutors fully funded  
through help2read  
donors

26  
Literacy Tutors  
funded in  
partnership with  
the Social  
Employment Fund

27  
Yeboneers  
funded in  
partnership with  
the YEBO  
Programme



**A Total of 92 Young People  
Empowered and Employed**

## Lazola Ndarala, Literacy Tutor at Sivuyiseni Primary, has the following to say about the Programme.

*When I joined the program, it awakened the best feeling in me that I never knew existed. I love the feeling of assisting learners with their reading, pronunciation, and fluency skills. I love seeing progress in the learners that I conduct one-on-one sessions with. The excitement that they have once they notice that they are making progress. I enjoy the reading clubs with the learners seeing them participate and engage with the team is pure joy. I am so proud of myself for joining this program because it has helped me discover a calling that I never knew existed. I am grateful to be given this opportunity to assist learners and work with teachers in finding ways to make sure that learners are able to read with meaning and understand.*



## Diedre Daniels, the SEF Literacy Tutor of Sonop Primary, has the following to say about the Programme.

*It's only been the second month, and I look forward to seeing the learners daily; they bring so much pleasure, even if they are a handful sometimes. I am grateful for the opportunity.*





# EARLY LITERACY

With key supporters we have accomplished the following in our programmes.

Help2read focuses on enhancing literacy among Grade 2 – 4 learners in South Africa through daily play-based learning methods, making the learning process enjoyable and effective in improving literacy outcomes and boosting confidence. The Programme offers personalized literacy support in settings with large class sizes and scarce literacy resources, specifically targeting children under ten, a group significantly affected by low literacy levels.

## Impact

**586**  
learners  
reached  
through one-  
on-one reading  
sessions

**2531**  
learners  
reached through  
reading clubs

**2052**  
learners  
reached  
through  
holiday clubs



## What has happened in the life of Suzan Maokeng of Diepsloot Primary

Suzan Maokeng joined help2read struggling with reading and lacking confidence in her abilities. With consistent support from her Literacy Tutor and dedication to practicing reading, she made significant progress. Within six months, Suzan went from struggling with basic words to confidently reading chapter books on her own. Her improved reading skills not only boosted her self-esteem but also allowed her to excel in other subjects.



### Zanele Dube, a learner at Diepsloot Primary School says the following:

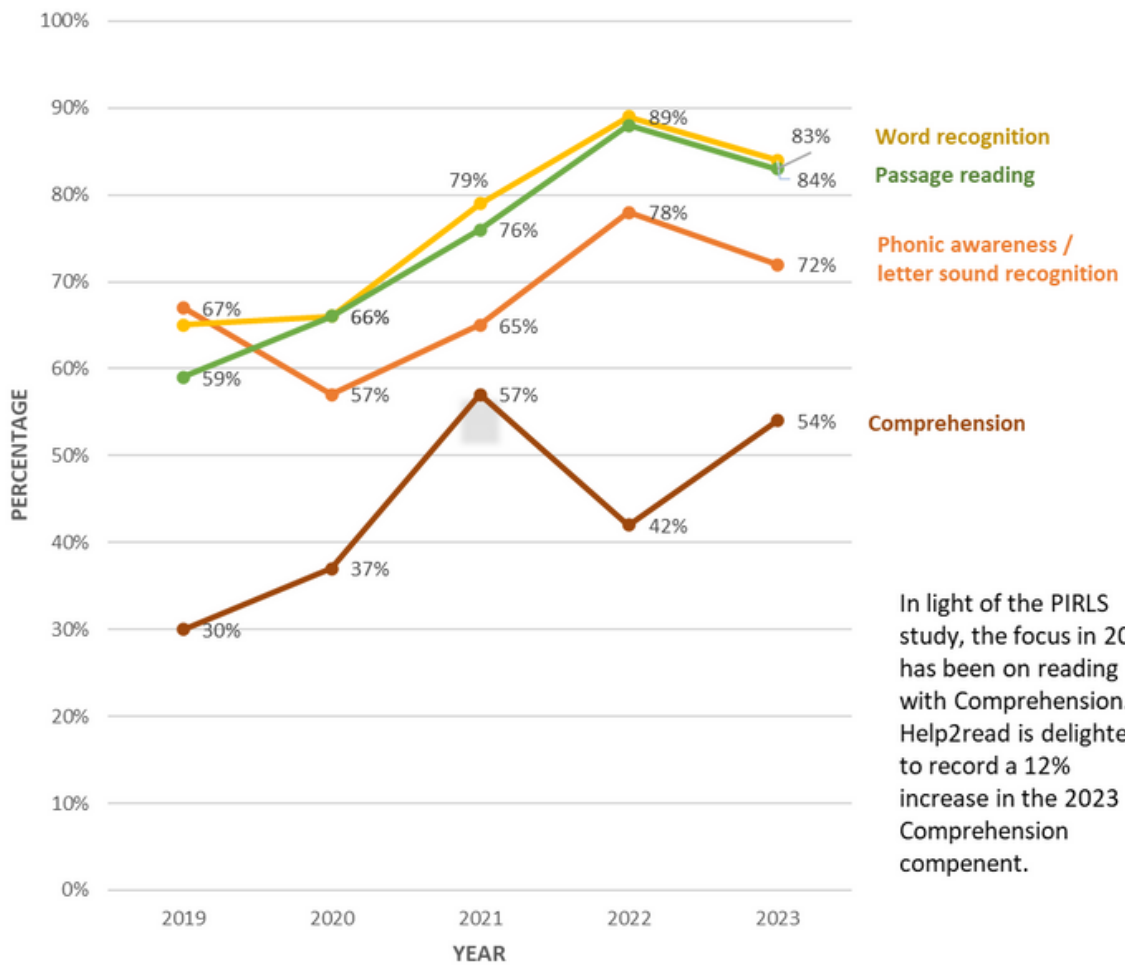
*help2read was amazing! The tutor I worked with was so kind and understanding, and she made learning to read fun and engaging. I saw a big improvement in pronouncing words and being a good listener, and I am so thankful for the help I received.*





# This is how the help2read Programme changes the lives of the children

Average improvement in reading outcomes for help2read learners, 2019 - 2023



In light of the PIRLS study, the focus in 2023 has been on reading with Comprehension. Help2read is delighted to record a 12% increase in the 2023 Comprehension component.



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Programme equips parents and the community with the tools to support their children's reading development at home and is an avenue for parents to access literacy resources. In addition, it provides training opportunities for parents to improve their understanding of how children learn to read and how, as parents, they can support that process.

## Impact

**1130**  
parents  
attended  
workshops

**24**  
participants on  
SEF Reading  
Helper  
Programme

**43**  
Reading Parents  
participate on the  
SEF Programme

**18**  
ECD centres  
reached





## Mr Khuzwayo, parent at Diepsloot Primary School says the following:

*I never understood why my child was part of this program until I came to this workshop which has helped me understand, and as a parent, I'm very pleased with what the program has to offer. My son has had this big interest in reading recently, and now I understand where the influence comes from; I'm very grateful for the opportunity given to our children by the program; may it prosper and not perish.*





**Nicolette Mashile Television Presenter from Daily Theta, and author of Coco the Financial Bunny has this to say:**

*This program is truly inspiring and helpful. There is a need for more of these organizations and we are truly grateful for the work it does.*



**SEF participant, Shireen Adams says:**

*I can see there's been progress with my learners. I like the group activities with the learners. It really helps us as a team as well. Overall, this Program has helped me a lot in a sense of communication and understanding.*





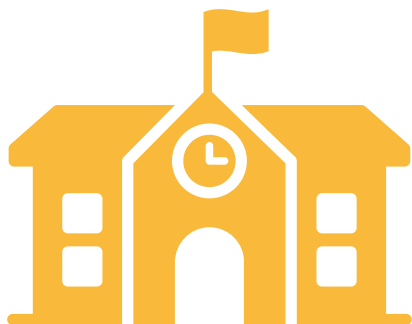
# THANK YOU

Thank you to each individual donor, Company and Trust for contributing towards the work of help2read. Despite facing financial challenges, we at help2read remained steadfast in our commitment to making a difference in the lives of each child, young person, parent and community participant we reach through our Programmes. Our dedication to fostering a love of reading and improving literacy skills among children does not waver. Thank you to the tireless efforts of the help2read Board and Team. With the unwavering support of our community, we have been able to continue our Programmes, touching the lives of countless young minds. This year has been a testament to our resilience and the power of collective action. Together, we've turned obstacles into opportunities, ensuring that every child we reach can unlock their full potential through the magic of reading. As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude and optimism for the future, inspired by the impact we've made and the journey ahead.

## Donors

- Comic Con Africa
- Community Chest
- David Graaff
- Doppio Zero
- Grid Metals
- help2read UK
- Jonathan Ball Publishers
- Khumo Capital
- Sony
- Still Water Sports Management
- Terre des hommes
- Small Donations, including monthly support from individuals

# Impact Since Inception



**420**  
**Schools Reached**



**675**  
**Youth Empowered  
and Employed**



**40 000**  
**Learners Reached**



**7000**  
**Volunteers**



# CONTACT US



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It's your support that truly makes the difference. Every donation, big or small, helps us light the way forward. Let's continue this journey together.

Please, **consider contributing today**, your **generosity is the heartbeat of our mission.**



## BANKING DETAILS

Account Name: help2read (RF) NPC

ABSA – Branch Number: 632005

Account Number: 4071 214 490

Swift Code: ABSAZAJJ



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