

Identifying Opportunities



TO FURTHER SUPPORT SOUTH AFRICAN LEARNERS

When education leaders and teachers are empowered with quality data, they are better equipped to help learners.

This is a core value of the Data Driven Districts Programme (DDD), launched in 2013.

An independent evaluation was conducted in 2020 to receive feedback from DDD users and stakeholders on programme lessons learned from term 1 2017 to term 1 2020.

Following are the specific enablers for success and opportunities for growth.

Champions drive engagement



Local influencers and role models drive participation when it comes to using the DDD Dashboard. In addition to peer champions, bringing in multiple people with different competencies, perspectives, and roles helps encourage and increase adoption across the country.

Training creates value



The demand for user training is growing, and training sessions meaningfully increase usage. These sessions get people more comfortable with the tool's functions and illustrate the many ways they can engage productively with data. Many find these sessions are also a valuable investment in professional skills outside of DDD.

Users need "so what" and "now what"



The dashboard helps with problem identification, but users need more guidance when it comes to utilizing data to drive solutions and next steps. To drive improvement for needed data solutions, the programme recently added a new function called Insights and Innovation. This team's focus going forward is defining new solutions and toolset improvements to ensure users are better able to extract insights and define clear next steps.

**“Where there’s a will,
there’s a way”**



Barriers such as lack of devices or poor connectivity limit DDD Dashboard usage, but those who see power in data for decision-making access it despite the hurdles. In fact, nearly one-third of the interviewed schools do not have adequate computers or reliable connectivity, yet all schools assessed in the evaluation submitted 2019 data and logged on or downloaded reports. To support education officials who may be dealing with ongoing connectivity challenges, DDD offers reports that can be downloaded when connected and reviewed at a later time.

**Teamwork makes
the dream work**



The DDD Programme is an example of how a shared vision between the Department of Basic Education, NGO partners, the private sector, and educators throughout the country can result in a scalable solution that fills a critical gap in the education system. To aim for success, these parties work together to ensure stakeholder engagement, school onboarding and capacity building efforts are flexible, integrated, and tailored to each province’s context.

CURRENT PROGRAMME REACH

The DDD Programme has successfully increased accessibility and data use by education officials.

23,000 schools

are now using the DDD Dashboard,
representing nearly

12 million learners

Users can now access termly information in

93% of all schools in eight provinces

A base of highly-active users is emerging
with more than

8,000 education officials
accessing their accounts
in term 1 of 2020

96% of district officials
interviewed said the dashboard
has improved efficiency

METHODOLOGY

Document review, quantitative analysis, and qualitative analysis.

200 interviews + **600** surveys + **focus** group discussions

Targeting DDD Dashboard users at school, district, and system levels and other key informants able to comment on the DDD Programme and the wider education system.