Newsletter

EAGLE Learning

Greetings from the EAGLE team!

We are very excited to share more exciting news about our journey this quarter. The Lord has been good to us in more ways than one and through him, we have managed to reach out to kids from all walks of life. We are happy to say that this EAGLE is soaring higher and higher with the help of the Almighty.

EAGLE launched a pilot project from December 2021 to January 2022 to test an online platform with learners doing their 3rd year in high school in one of the most densely populated suburbs of Bulawayo. With the help of Zillearn, we were striving to use the online platform to get reach, give access to quality education to kids and receive feedback on the content quickly from users. We hoped to reach out to the younger generation as well as help the Christian Community come to the forefront of Education in Zimbabwe and Africa once more.

The site was chosen to carry out this project because it is in line with our vision to fill education gaps for the underprivileged. A survey by Zimbabwe Women Resource Centre Network (ZWRCN) revealed that about 45% of children of school-going age in Cowdray Park are not in school owing to lack of adequate schools in the suburb. An additional 15 schools are required to absorb the children there, coupled with COVID19 it has created an education crisis in that community.

We met and shared the EAGLE vision with 45 pastors of the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe, whose congregations are in Cowdray Park. After setting up learning groups in these churches, the team continued to provide technical support in the month of January. We continuously visited the sites to address challenges and provide encouragement to the facilitators and learners alike. Some of the learners' devices were incompatible with the learning platform and so they happily shared phones with the few whose devices were compatible. It affected our lesson tracking system but kept everyone engaged, and for that we are grateful!. We look forward to providing all the learning groups with options to access tablets, that way they will all have the same great learning experience that we as EAGLE, strive to provide.

LEARNERS REACHED	LEARNING GROUPS FOR PROJECT 300	FACILITATORS TRAINED
328	20	54

Offline Sites

After wrapping up Project 300, 4 sites were taken offline because learners were still interested in continuing with the lessons. Through the use of the Raspberry PIs, we provided lessons to the kids. Celebration Church with a School In A Box kit of 40 tablets, offered to be one of the centers to continue with the project using their hardware.

Two other sites failed to gather momentum because of a lack of resources.

However, the Church of Christ learning group facilitated by one of our very own content creators, Khanyile, has been thriving. He has been doing a remarkable job with 32 students attending after-school sessions faithfully. Using a kit with only 10 tablets, each student is allocated 2hours a day to access the lessons.

Isaac and Ashley are Form 1 students but at their school, they currently do not have a Mathematics teacher and the EAGLE Content is helping to bridge that gap.
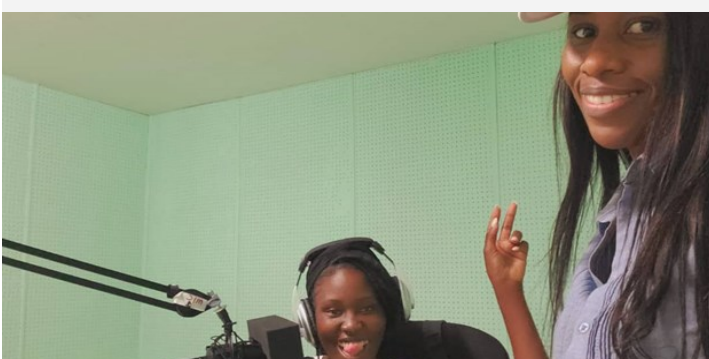
Facilitator Outreach

Because we want every student to be ecstatic about learning and school, we encouraged the churches to recruit young people, those who are young at heart, energetic, and, individuals who are passionate about engaging young people. We then trained the facilitators on how to make the study sessions fun and Christ centered for their group.

EAGLE has also engaged Keller education to provide training for our facilitators and content creators aimed at improving the school experience for modern children while specifically focusing on the quality of teaching and thinking in schools. These sessions have been very beneficial, fun and refreshing as well.

Radio Lessons

March has been an exciting month, lesson recordings in ISindebele, Agriculture as well as Science & Technology have started taking shape and we are thankful that our partners (Amagugu Evangeli) have shown commitment to the agreed recording times and we are progressing positively.

We have also included a Bible stories series which is non curriculum but very enjoyable and deliberately incorporated into our programming format to open the minds of your learners to the knowledge of God and his power to save and help us in our daily lives.

We are looking forward to the creation of more content that is will ignite the imagination of children and encourage them to learn at all times at school, at home and even as they play.

Tanks Training

EAGLE is part of an UNPLUGGED CODING project with the Leva Foundation from South Africa – unplugged refers to coding without the use of computers. It uses customized tokens and image recognition to introduce learners to coding concepts without the use of a computer. Some schools in the country do not have computer labs and there is a dire shortage of teachers with coding experience. So using these tokens and tablets, the basics of coding are easily taught.

We have run coding sessions with Cape Diem School with kids ranging from 8years to 12 years old. A very vibrant group of kids who seemed very keen to learn the coding game. They seemed to have challenges in the beginning but as time went by, they familiarized with the game, got engrossed in it, and were even refusing to let the team go. It was a very exciting time. We also trained facilitators at Mustard Seed Children's Home. They will introduce coding to their learners.

We want to go to farm schools and bring them a message of hope. To say, it doesn't mean if they don't have computers they cannot learn how to code. Coding Unplugged all the way."

Platform

Hope School has grown in leaps and bounds and there is need to further equip the school with enough tablets to service the whole school. They are using a kit of 55 tablets for their almost 150 learners. This year the school's pioneer students will sit for their public examinations and we pray that they produce pleasant results.

During Project 300 we capacitated the learning groups by providing internet access. Through the use of MIFIs, we encouraged the learners to access the platform within the physical boundaries of the sites and not on their own at home. The learners used their own phones to access the content, and this highlighted the dire need for more hardware.

We are still using the MOODLE LMS though we hope to develop our own platform with the help of Zillearn and Cornerstone.

EAGLE on Wheels!

The Base Community blessed us with one car and now we have a total of 3 cars . Having these cars has made monitoring sites a lot easier, there is better flexibility in movement as all departments can run their necessary errands without inconveniencing the other. Coming to work and going back home is no longer a challenge for the team and it has eased the burden on the sister company in terms of transporting staff.

We received various hardware to start building our very own Bring Your Own Device Kits. It is very exciting that with these we will be able to open more learning groups in April and reach more communities.

EAGLE TEAM

We are grateful for this month, its challenges and the wins thereof. We thank God for helping us to sail through. We look forward to facing brand new challenges that are of course not meant to break us but to make us a better EAGLE team and soar even higher!

The team now comprises of Bridget (Team leader), Thamu and Denver (IT support), Sibukele (Radio producer) , George (Community liaison,) Buhle, Khanyile and Andrina (full time Content Creators) , and Thembelihle our editing intern.

EAGLE
LEARNING