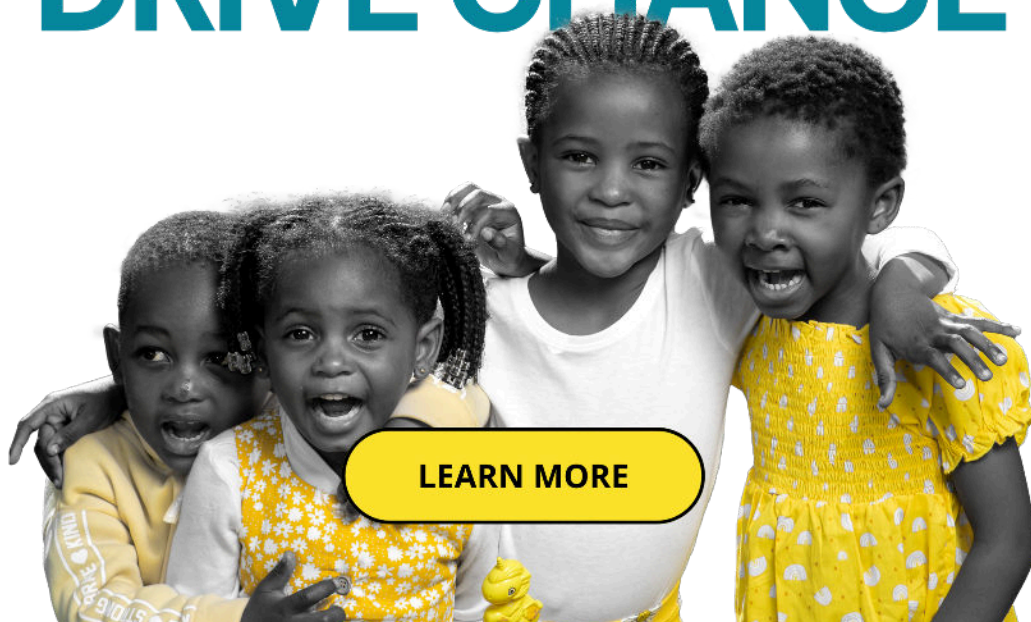




# JOIN US IN USING DATA TO DRIVE CHANGE



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**Dear partner,**

As we close this quarter, we're energised by the growing momentum across South Africa's early learning ecosystem. Together, we've reflected on new research, shared practical learning across programmes, and strengthened collaboration around measurement and data use.

In this edition, we share key insights from recent convenings, updates from the Thrive by Five Index launch, and new open-access resources designed to support data-informed learning and action across the sector.

# THIS QUARTER AT A GLANCE



## Insights from the Funders Symposium

Our October Funders Symposium created space for funders to engage with new data and reflect together on what it means for the sector moving forward.

### What funders reflected on:

- Data is most meaningful when interpreted collaboratively between funders and grantees.
- Measurement supports impact best when it enables reflection and adaptation, not just compliance.
- Multi-year, trust-based funding better supports ongoing programme learning and improvement.

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## National Launch of the Thrive by Five Index 2024



The national launch of the **Thrive by Five Index 2024** shared **new insights into early learning outcomes across the country**. A provincial roadshow is currently underway to support provinces in exploring their Index results in a way that's meaningful and relevant to their local context. Province-level reports will be released next year, giving provinces, stakeholders, and partners the detailed insights they need to drive more focused decisions and actions.

[DOWNLOAD THE REPORT](#)

# NEW RESOURCES



We're pleased to share a set of new open-access resources to support fair assessment, informed programme design, and evidence-based reflection. Each of these tools and publications aims to make data easier to interpret and apply in practice.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## ELOM 4&5 Technical Manual (4th Edition)

The 4th edition of the **ELOM 4&5** Technical Manual has been published and includes updated naming, new **6-month age band norms** (based on 20,000+ assessments), and new **predictive validity evidence** showing that ELOM 4&5 results meaningfully link to later learning outcomes in Grade 1 and 2.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## ELOM-R Technical Manual Suite

The full ELOM-R set – covering **Language, Mathematics**, and the **development history and norming process** – is now available for download.

These manuals tell the story of how the assessments were **built for South Africa**, ensuring fairness across languages, contexts, and environments.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Case Study: How Programme Evaluations Can Drive Strategic Change

This multi-case study shows how four programmes used ELOM data to reflect, adapt, and strengthen programme design and delivery – demonstrating that **data can be a tool for learning, not just accountability**.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Insights Briefs

Short, accessible evidence snapshots that use ELOM and other sector datasets to explore focused questions and highlight practical implications for strengthening early learning practice.



### [✕ Assessing Fairly: Home Language vs Familiar Language](#)

Why assessing in a familiar language can underestimate ability and how to strengthen fairness.

### [✕ Maximising Impact Through the Data Value Chain:](#)



How data supports change only when it informs reflection and action.

📦 **Re-introducing the ELOM 4&5 Targeting Tool:**

A five-item rapid assessment tool designed to identify children falling far behind in development who need targeted support.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Webinar

#### ELOM-in-Practice: Evaluating Programme Effectiveness

19 November 2025 | 11am

Join our final session of the **ELOM-in-Practice webinar series**. **SmartStart** and **The Unlimited Child** share insights from large-scale evaluations, and how data guided programme strengthening.

REGISTER

## DataDrive2030

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