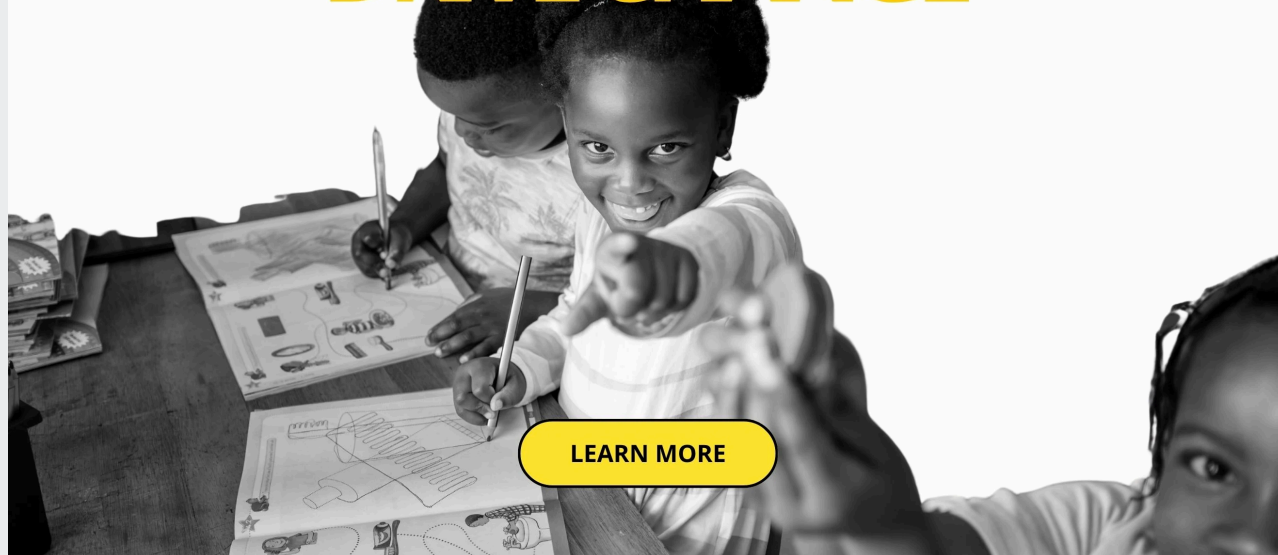




JOIN US IN USING DATA TO DRIVE CHANGE



[LEARN MORE](#)

Dear partner,

As DataDrive2030 enters the next phase of its journey, our focus is clear: **strengthening the connection between data, evidence and action.** Our 2026–2030 strategy provides a foundation for building the partnerships, capabilities and systems needed to generate high-quality evidence and ensure it is relevant and accessible to those who use it.

Across our work, from preparations for the *Thrive by Five Index 2027* and engagement with ECD practitioners, to strengthening fieldwork, exploring innovative assessment approaches and unlocking the value of existing data, we continue to learn, adapt and collaborate.

Ultimately, our ambition is not simply to generate more data, but to ensure evidence informs better decisions, strengthens practice and contributes

to better outcomes for young children.

FEATURED

From Build to Scale: Our 2026–2030 Strategy



DataDrive2030 has entered a new phase: moving from building and learning to scaling what works and deepening our long-term impact.

Our 2026–2030 strategy sets out how we will do this – strengthening early learning data infrastructure, professionalising the data workforce, expanding equitable access to ELOM tools, enabling data-informed improvement and supporting the use of trusted evidence in national and provincial decision-making.

At the centre of the strategy is a clear ambition: **more young children in South Africa thriving through stronger, more equitable early learning systems enabled by trusted evidence and collective action.**

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

What the ECDI2030 and ELOM 4&5 Tools Can Tell Us
About South African Children



ECDI2030

Early Childhood Development Index

DataDrive2030 is continuously exploring new tools and approaches to assessment. Elizabeth Girdwood, our Senior Product Manager, and the team are examining how results from the ELOM 4&5 compare with those from the ECDI2030 when applied to the same children.

The study explores **how the ECDI2030 can be applied in the South African context, across two language groups and in urban and rural**

settings. It aims to determine whether results from South Africa's ELOM 4&5 tools can meaningfully align with the UNICEF ECDI indicator.

Discover how the study uses ELOM 4&5 and ECDI2030 to measure children's development through two different approaches.

EXPLORE THE STUDY

Fieldworkers: Connecting Context, Feedback and Action



“Fieldworkers experience the context behind the data. Quality data starts with the people who understand why accuracy matters.”

There is a story behind the data we see and use. Most importantly, there are people on the ground who ensure that this data is collected.

Long before the data reaches funders, policymakers, decision-makers and practitioners – a group of trained individuals observe, listen and gather information directly from the people. At the heart of our fieldworkers’ work is a **strong community of practice**.

Nonkululeko Seloba, our Fieldwork Support Manager, says the common thread that weaves quality data, fieldworkers and communities is connection and communication.

“Fieldworkers are the heart of data, they are the centre of how data moves from the ground to the people.”

[READ THE STORY](#)

NEW RESOURCES

**NEW RESOURCE****INSIGHTS BRIEF:
REINTRODUCING THE
ELOM 4&5 TARGETING
TOOL**

Insights Brief: Re-introducing the ELOM 4&5 Targeting Tool

The ELOM 4&5 Targeting Tool (ELOM 4&5 TT) is a 15-minute, five-item assessment derived from our ELOM 4&5 Years Assessment that measures early childhood development.

The ELOM 4&5 TT's short form allows for more regular and flexible use, including identifying small groups and individuals who need targeted support. This tool gives the ECD sector an accessible way to identify developmental concerns and support targeted interventions quickly.

While the ELOM 4&5 Targeting Tool can support early identification, it does not provide a comprehensive assessment of a child's developmental needs and should be used alongside appropriate support approaches.

EXPLORE THE INSIGHTS BRIEF



Making Better Use of Existing Data

“Funding cuts do not diminish the need for new evidence; they present an opportunity for existing data to be reanalysed.”

Tyryn Carnegie, our Senior Data Analyst, recently attended the Africa Evidence Summit in Addis Ababa. One focus of the discussions was how African researchers can make greater use of accessible public datasets to investigate new questions and extend the value of existing research.

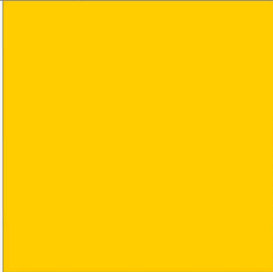
The wider question is therefore not simply whether data are available, but whether researchers can access, interrogate, and use it to answer questions that matter for African systems.

🔗 [Explore how African researchers are making more use of existing data](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATADRIVE2030



	
WHAT WILL ACCELERATE EARLY IDENTIFICATION: USING THE ELOM 4&5 TARGETING TOOL 21 OCTOBER 2026 11 AM	 CATHERINE MATHER-PIKE SIYAKWAZI NPO



Webinar

ELOM in Practice

What Will Accelerate Early Identification: Using the ELOM 4&5 Targeting Tool

21 October 2026 | 11 AM (SAST)

REGISTER

Join Catherine Mather-Pike, Director and Founder at Siyakwazi NPO, as she unpacks how the ELOM 4&5 Years Targeting Tool can support the early identification of developmental concerns and inform appropriate support.

DataDrive2030

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