Improving the lives of children and youth
“Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.”

- Kofi Annan
MIET AFRICA is a not-for-profit education and development organization that improves the lives of children and youth by contributing to the provision of quality education for all. Forward thinking, we use principles of social entrepreneurship to actively identify barriers to education achievement and to conceptualize and pilot innovative, replicable interventions that address these challenges. Adopting a holistic and ecological systems approach to development, we influence and enable policy in education, partnering with government and other key stakeholders to ensure participation, ownership, relevance and sustainability of interventions, and to maximize their impact.

Established more than 20 years ago, MIET AFRICA has remained committed to serving the most impoverished and vulnerable school communities. This has deepened our understanding of education systems and the contexts and obstacles facing vulnerable children and youth, including poor quality teaching and learning, poverty, gender inequality, disability, abuse, HIV&AIDS, and other health-related and social issues. With our history of innovation and the successful implementation of comprehensive and pioneering approaches to address the educational and related socioeconomic and health needs of children and youth in southern Africa, MIET AFRICA commands a wealth of experience and knowledge and is well-placed to work with partners to tackle these challenges across the region.

MIET AFRICA is South African-based, with a strong presence in the SADC Region.
Focus areas

MIET AFRICA’s work falls within three main focus areas: addressing barriers to learning and development, enhancing the quality of education and youth empowerment.

Our approach is based on:
» Conducting research for development, investigating causal factors and needs
» Conceptualizing, piloting and implementing innovative approaches to development, including the use of technology-based solutions and learner-centred methodologies
» Establishing meaningful and inclusive partnerships with government, tertiary institutions, SETAs (Sector Education Training Authorities), youth formations, and parents, caregivers and communities

Addressing barriers to learning and development
Emerging out of our Schools as Centres of Care and Support model, this area focuses on supporting the transformation of education institutions in SADC Member States into inclusive centres of learning, care and support, where every learner can learn. Key to achieving this is the reduction of the impact of societal, systemic, pedagogical and intrinsic barriers that impede the achievement of the Education For All targets and Sustainable Development Goals.

Enhancing the quality of education
MIET AFRICA is committed to working with Ministries of Education to design innovative approaches to support the strengthening of education systems and institutions, including a strong focus on teacher development, to ensure improved learner performance and education for all.

Youth empowerment
Today’s youth are faced with many challenges that hinder personal development and achievement and pose a threat to growth and development in the region. MIET AFRICA supports programmes targeting youth to improve access to youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health services and knowledge, and to develop and deliver life skills, career and entrepreneurial programmes. Through these strategies, we support and empower youth to take responsibility for their lives, achieve optimally, and participate fully in the political, economic and cultural affairs of society.

“Education is the bedrock of social and economic development.”
- Unknown
Since its inception, MIET AFRICA has worked within the education system (and outside where relevant) and with all stakeholder groups, in initiatives that span the SADC Region, as well as those that are specific to one or more South African provinces. Some examples of our work are listed below:

**Addressing barriers to learning and development**
- Care and Support for Teaching and Learning
- Education for All
- Education Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children
- Education: My Right! My Future!
- Framework for Parent-Community Engagement in Schools
- Inclusive Education in Action, Uthukela
- Promoting Inclusive Education for Learners with Disabilities in Southern Africa
- Siyanakekela: School Communities Caring for Children
- Supporting Children to Learn Parenting Programme

**Enhancing the quality of education**
- Education Centres Supporting Rural Development
- Strengthening and Supporting SMTs and SGBs
- Primary Education Programme
- Global Education Leaders’ Partnership
- Innovative Learning Environments Project
- Pongola Science and Mathematics Enhancement Programme
- Professional Learning Communities Establishment Programme
- Strengthening Full Service Schools
- Teaching for Inclusion and Democracy

**Youth empowerment**
- Bright Futures
- Keeping Girls in School
- Learn to Earn
- Prevent Violence in Schools. Learners take Action
- ReadytoWork
- Reducing HIV in Adolescents
- Safeguard Young People
- Speak Out against Violence and Abuse
- Young Women and Girls Programme

“Someone is sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago.” - Warren Buffett
MIET AFRICA offers a range of services to support partners in their delivery of quality education and development. These can be utilized individually, or in combination. Services are listed below.

**Project management**
We have significant experience and expertise in project management and offer a comprehensive project management service that includes proposal development, project planning and implementation, advocacy and communications, materials development and training, financial management and rigorous monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

**Materials development**
We have a track record of designing and developing high quality advocacy, education and learning materials that are inviting, user-friendly, accessible and targeted to specific audience groups. A collaborative approach is used to ensure full partner involvement at all stages of the development process. All materials are field-tested before being finalized.

**Research**
Our research services are tailored to need and include both thorough statistical and qualitative analyses. Findings are presented in a style and format most suited to their intended target audience.

**Skills development and training**
As an ETDP (Education Training and Development Practices) SETA-accredited provider, MIET AFRICA offers accredited and SACE-endorsed courses as well as non-certified training programmes. Our experienced team of facilitators are either qualified educators and/or have qualifications in adult education, dialoguing, mentoring, facilitation, assessment and moderation. We employ a learner-centred, participatory and interactive approach to skills development.

“The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”

- Alvin Toffler
Our partners

Our success is based on strong partnerships. Government is a critical partner for the sustainability and scaling up of pilot projects and we engage closely with education ministries, at all levels, throughout the SADC Region.

Other key partners include local government, school communities, NGOs, unions, local and international development and funding agencies, United Nations’ organizations and corporates.

“Do what you do best and partner with people to leverage their expertise, skill sets and talents.”

– Ban Ki-moon

Our people

Our people are our greatest asset. They drive our vision and mission with passion, dedication and professionalism. We also utilize the services of highly experienced and competent contract staff as the need arises.

We are governed by a Board of Trustees, which drafts policies and oversees the maintenance of adequate accounting records as well as the preparation and integrity of the annual financial statements.