



DeafNET's
15th
Anniversary
Special Edition!

Celebrating 15 Years of Service
2006-2021

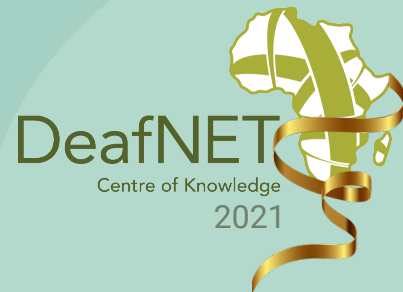


AT A GLANCE:

- 01 WELCOME MESSAGE
- 02 MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER
- 03 OUR MILESTONES SINCE 2004
- 04 BENEFICIARIES FEEDBACK



01 WELCOME MESSAGE



Welcome to DeafNET newsletter special edition.

DeafNET would like to thank you for your support, as we celebrate the 15th anniversary of its journey. It is a time to reflect on how DeafNET has managed to build a network of the Deaf people/organisations in more than 40 African countries through particularizing, capacity building, research and knowledge dissemination to improve the health and socio-economic wellbeing of Deaf people and their families.

Today, DeafNET is a non-profit organisation, registered in South Africa as an autonomous international organisation in November 2011. Since its inception in 2006, DeafNET had a tremendous impact on the lives of the Deaf community with programs such as:

- Red Star Process, a Deaf Education Programme in Bilingualism Development – Sign Language and Writing and Reading
- Community Development initiatives
- Leadership and Entrepreneurship Development and Training
- Social Competence in Leadership Development
- Human Rights Advocacy
- Multi-Media Toolkits
- Sign Language Promotion and Training

Our NPO is firmly cemented in uniting efforts to increase the quality of life of Deaf people on the African continent. Our partnership with De Stichting Vrienden van Effatha (SVE) since the start has led to unique projects and opportunities in Africa. Our stakeholders are enormously proud that the organisation has reached this milestone. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to De Stichting Vrienden van Effatha (SVE), whose vision has been the inspiration for DeafNET and also, special thanks for their continued support in our new project driven model.

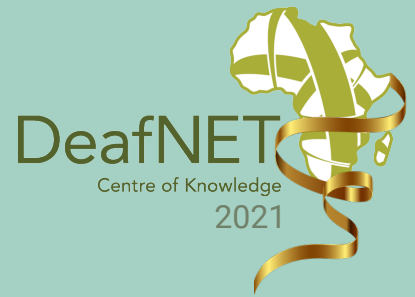
In conclusion, the management is looking forward to continuing to provide and improve access to further development and capacitating the deaf community in Africa.

I hope you enjoy this special edition and find it enlightening.



Mr S Beepat
Manager

02 MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



It is a pleasant privilege to send out this newsletter to commemorate DeafNET's 15 years of service. We invite our friends, colleagues and the network in Africa and the Islands to celebrate with us. We bring you some of the highlights since the founding of DeafNET and look forward to the future.

Thank you to all who have walked the path with us from the beginning and those who have joined. Together we have strengthened DeafNET.

This letter invites you to help maintain the work that has already been done and to build on it. Let's inspire and support each other to make a positive difference in people's lives and to make the world a better place for all.

Sincerely,



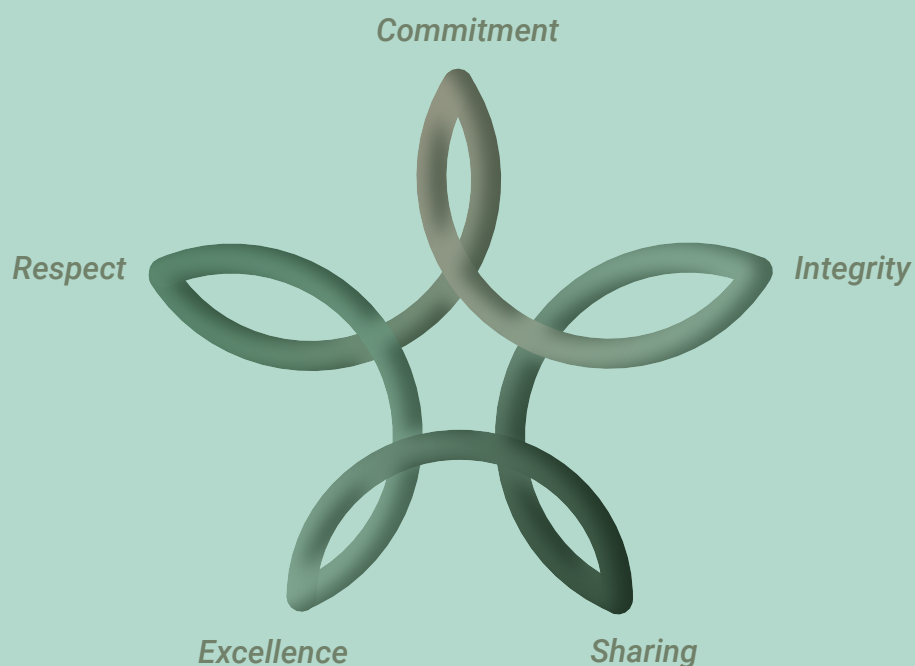
REV AL Smit
Chairperson

Why DeafNET

DeafNET empowers Deaf persons and their families through exchange and dissemination of knowledge and skills to achieve their full potential. We are committed and dedicated to promoting human rights of the Deaf, as well as catering for their well-being through training and development, and implementing programmes that promote respect for Deaf persons' language and culture.



IDENTITY OF DEAFNET



Our Board of Trustees

Many thanks to the trustees, past and present, for their valuable contributions, passion and hard work.

Rev AL Smit (Founder)	2011 - Present	Ms ID Oyuu (Deaf)	2016 - Present
Dr FK Krige	2011 - Present	Dr HCM Defourny	2011 - Present
Dr GAL Defourny	2011 - Present	Dr M Geiger	2011 - Present
Dr PAO Akach	2011 - Present	Ms C Morgan (Deaf)	2016 - Present
Mr JS Kellerman (Deaf)	2018 - Present	Mr PA Cook	2017 - Present
Ms M Glaser	2016 - Present	Ms WG Ayansa (Deaf)	2018 - Present
Ms ME Matabane (Deaf)	2011 - 2014	Dr PJD Smith	2011 - 2018
Dr A Abdelaziz	2016 - 2017	Ms GM Kilian	2011 - 2012



2004

- 1st Africa Workshop on Mental Health and Deafness in SA



2005

- 2nd Africa Workshop
- 3rd Mental Health and Deafness World Congress
- Establishment of Africa Contact Group for Mental Health and Deafness (ACGMHD)



2006

- Establishment of NID, DeafNET Centre of Knowledge in SA
- 1st ACGMHD Leadership training in Morocco



2007

- Strategic Planning and train the trainer workshop in Netherlands
- Participation in the ESMHD Congress in the Netherlands



2008

- Train the trainer workshop in DRC
- Launch of the Deaf Bible in Swaziland



2009

- Training of Deaf leaders in Tunisia
- Train the trainer workshop in Lesotho
- Train the trainer workshop in Swaziland
- Train the trainer workshop in Burundi
- Production of Burundi Sign Language DVD
- Production of Mauritanian Language DVD
- Train the trainer for 15 African countries in SA



2010

- Train the Trainer for 10 West African countries in Nigeria
- Production of Gambian Sign Language DVD
- Train the Trainer workshop in Fez, Morocco
- Production of Congolese Sign Language DVD
- Donation of computer equipment to Deaf School Burundi

2011

- 3rd DeafNET Africa workshop in Swaziland
- Leadership training for newly elected ACGMHD members
- Red Star Process for 3 educators from Mauritania in SA
- Basic Computer training in Mauritius
- DeafNET became autonomous

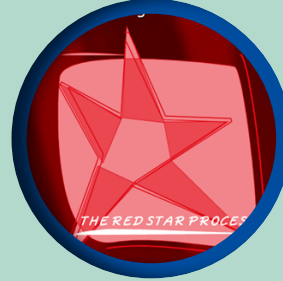
2012

- 1st Red Star Training for 8 DRC educators in SA
- Basic computer training in Mauritius



2013

- Launch of DeafNET 1st HIV toolkit in SA
- Leadership and Management training workshop 1 in Madagascar
- Leadership and Management training workshop 2 in Madagascar
- Red Star training for 3 educators from Benin in SA
- Red Star monitoring and evaluation in DRC
- 2-year DeafNET Scholarship for Miss Deaf Swaziland



2014

- Red Star Training for 3 educators from Madagascar
- Red Star Training for another 4 educators from Mozambique
- 3-year scholarship for Miss Deaf Mauritius



2015

- Red Star monitoring and evaluation in Mozambique
- Red Star training for 3 educators from Zimbabwe
- Red Star training for 3 educators from Cameroon
- Red Star training for 3 educators from Tanzania
- Red Star training for 6 educators from Botswana
- Beekeeping initiative begins in Uganda
- Donation of training materials to Deaf PreSchool, Zambia

2016

- 4th DeafNET Africa Conference
- ACGMHD was renamed to DeafNET Africa committee (DAC)
- 1-year scholarship for 1 Deaf student from Zimbabwe
- Leadership training for 15 South African Deaf leaders

2017

- Basic South African Sign Language training
- HIV awareness-raising in Malawi
- Scholarship for 2 Deaf students from SA



2018

- Red Star monitoring and evaluation in Zimbabwe
- Youth Leadership Programme for Deaf School in SA
- Youth Café SL training in SA
- Red Star Training for 6 educators from Swaziland (hosted in SA)
- 2-year scholarship for 2 South African Deaf students



2019

- HIV awareness-raising in Swaziland
- Handover of Beekeeping project in Uganda
- Youth Café Sign Language training
- Leadership training for 8 African countries in SA
- Advanced training in Red Star process for facilitators from DRC and Zimbabwe (hosted in SA)
- Red Star training for teachers from 6 Deaf Schools in the Western Cape
- Red Star workshop in Zimbabwe
- Pastry making initiative begins in Mauritius
- Entrepreneurship training Mauritius





2020

- Youth Café Sign Language training in SA
- Social Competence in Leadership workshop in Ethiopia, Cameroon & Tanzania
- HIV Awareness raising in Congo, Uganda, Kenya & Rodrigues Island
- Red Star training for 4 Educators from Chad
- Red Star monitoring and evaluation in Benin
- Pastry making in Mauritius
- Accreditation of DeafNET Sign Language program begins

2021

- Official Launch of DeafNET HIV toolkit 2
- Youth Café Sign Language training in SA
- Official Launch of Beekeeping project in Kenya



04 BENEFICIARIES FEEDBACK

SOME SUCCESS STORIES



Leadership

DeafNET's Social Competence in Leadership also called "Equip to Serve and Lead" is designed to develop the potential of Deaf leaders through guidance, training and inspiration/motivation. This training program is designed to give training in Social Competence in Leadership, help potential Deaf leaders to develop skills, including personal skills like self-awareness and social awareness, organize, deliver effective training and to know how to assess the impact and success of the training.

"DeafNET Centre of Knowledge came into force and opened doors for many potential Deaf leaders in Africa. The Equip to Serve and Lead programme that Eswatini (Swaziland) benefited was in fact inspiring for Deaf leaders as it boosted the ability to work with everyone involved in the lives of the Deaf people. DeafNET has done so much in a space of short time."



Mr Makhosini Peter Makhubu
Deaf

"The leadership programme was truly valuable because it has helped me to grow in my leadership position at my current Deaf organisation. Not only have I learned about leadership, but also developed my own unique leadership styles, understand strength and work on areas of improvement. That way, I have empowered my other Deaf fellows."



Mr Bensari
Deaf

Red Star Process

Since 2011, DeafNET in partnership with De la Bat School, successfully presented the Red Star Programme (RSP) to 31 educators from 9 African countries and 232 educators in South Africa. The Red Star programme (RSP) is a training method that was developed to bridge the gap between Sign Language and reading-writing competence in learners living with Deafness or hearing-loss.

"It has developed skills of critical thinking and problem solving as individuals in reading and writing for Deaf learners at King George School. Also, it has instilled confidence in the learners and built the spirit of "I can do it" which has resulted in them performing at higher levels and empowered learners to expand their grammar."



Ms Petronella Masendeke

"Fast forward to 2015, three educators from COBICERSOM School for the Deaf had the opportunity to attend Red Star training in South Africa. The implementation of the Red Star Process has positively impacted on Deaf learners' overall performance at COBICERSOM. Manuela Toboum, who was introduced to Red Star, has done extremely well. Currently, she has secured a seat in High School."



Mr Innocent Djonthe
Deaf

Scholarship

The promotion of education and training is an important activity at DeafNET Centre of Knowledge. DeafNET fully supports the idea of providing a fine, dignified and beautiful way to encourage young Deaf women in becoming the leaders of tomorrow. We believe education is the most lasting and effective way we can help young Deaf learners and their families to escape from the cycle of poverty in Africa.



"It's an honor that DeafNET has chosen to support me as Miss Deaf Swaziland. This scholarship has without questions pushed me to my utmost best and shapes me into the person I am today. I am currently working in the baking section of a big chain store in Swaziland. DeafNET's scholarship program was outstanding. Thank you to DeafNET."



Ms Nelisiwe Dlamini
Deaf

Ms Samantha Hector-Niemand from Mauritius says that the scholarship she received from DeafNET has given her the freedom to grow as a Deaf person. Also, it has allowed her the opportunity to explore her passion in Sign language training and working on projects. I am very thankful for the scholarship.



Ms Samantha Hector-Niemand
Deaf

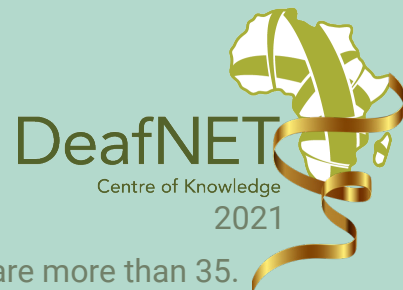
"By awarding me a scholarship during the Zwakala event, DeafNET has opened a path for me which allows me to focus on my career. I completed my studies at NID College and currently, I am working as a beauty therapist. I hope one day I will be able to help other Deaf learner to achieve their goal."



Ms Majoni Loveness
Deaf

Deaf Beekeeping Project

The goal for this project is to encourage sustainable livelihoods in the Deaf community in Uganda by providing beekeeping skills in the agricultural sector, so that they can earn an income and become productive in the society. Currently, the total number of Deaf beekeepers are more than 35.



"I have taken up the initiative of constructing locally made bee hives which I sell to my neighbours to achieve more income", said Kasule (Deaf).

Mr Musenze (Deaf) mentioned that in 2019, Uganda National Association of the Deaf (UNAD) came up with a project aiming at offering grants to promising Deaf persons to run businesses. Six Deaf beekeepers who were selected for DeafNET's project under Jinja Deaf beekeepers were awarded a grant to expand the initiative.



Mr Kasule and Mr Musenze
Deaf

Pastry Making

This project aims are to turn lives around by seizing opportunities to take up internships and promoting sustainable development initiatives.



Ms Nadine Radegone
Deaf

"Before I joined the pastry making training program, I had been working as a part-time dressmaker. I gained knowledge and skills and a licence needed to start baking from home. Currently, I am selling pastries from home. Thank you to the opportunity."



Mr Kevin Kaundun
Deaf

Mr Kevin Kaundun. discovered pastry making at a young age, yet it was never a part of his life. "After I completed pastry making in 2019, I started to make pastries and sell them to the public. 'It was here that I learnt how much I love making cakes and makes me so happy."

HIV Awareness Raising

"As a result of the HIV-Awareness conducted in the 2 Islands in the Indian Ocean, Deaf people are increasingly talking about the virus and its link to the sexual behavior of Deaf people. The Deaf organization in Mauritius has also been contacted by other HIV organizations to see how more Deaf friendly awareness can be conducted. The toolkit is an important tool that goes beyond language barriers."



Ms Irani Jankee
Deaf

Ms Woinshet Ayansa, the Chairperson of DeafNET Africa Committee mentioned that an important success of the HIV Awareness raising is that the campaign has zoom in rural areas such as Swaziland, Kenya, Rodrigues, Malawi and Uganda where Deaf people are not exposed to a visual toolkit. Also, the Deaf people who attend the awareness-raising are given DVDs and materials that also help them to better understand the pandemic.



Ms Woinshet Ayansa
Deaf

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS AND DONORS

Stichting Vrienden van
effatha

We invite you to become a member of DeafNET.

THANK YOU FOR SHARING IN THE CELEBRATION!

HOW YOU CAN HELP :

SMS DeafNET to 48821 and donate R10

DONATIONS:

Our bank details:

Bank: NEDBANK

Account Number: 1020462655

Account Type: Cheque Account

Branch Code: 101507

Swift Number: NEDSZAJJ

Please fax/email us your proof of payment.

Fax: +27 23 3471052

Email: projectadmin@deafnet.org

We rely on the donations, support and expertise to continue to improve the quality of life of Deaf people.

Your support will make a huge difference in the lives of Deaf people.

Your donation matters.