

# Newsletter

## December 2023

DeafNET  
Centre of Knowledge



### IN THIS ISSUE

#### THE YEAR IN REVIEW

- ◆ **Message**
- ◆ **DeafNET Africa Conference**
  - Sign Language Workshop
  - Western Cape, South Africa
- ◆ **HIV Awareness Raising**
  - Mali
  - Eswatini
  - Morocco
  - Algeria
- ◆ **Social Competence in Leadership**
  - Uganda
  - South Sudan
  - Botswana
- ◆ **Red Star Process (RSP)**
  - South Africa for Zambian educators
  - Follow-up Mali
  - Follow-up Madagascar
- ◆ **Beekeeping**
  - Rwanda
- ◆ **Other Initiatives**
  - Implementation of RSP in Zimbabwe
- ◆ **Networking**
- ◆ **Launch of GBV Toolkit**
- ◆ **Retirement of the founder of DeafNET**  
Centre of Knowledge





## DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES



The year 2023, has been an amazing year for DeafNET Centre of Knowledge with some major achievements and developments. We are now 18 years old, and we have already reached many beneficiaries in more than 40 countries. As we wrap up this year, we celebrate our achievements that have occurred over this period.

Just over a year ago, we held our 5<sup>th</sup> DeafNET Africa Conference, held in Johannesburg, South Africa and can affirm that the conference was a great success! On a good note, we are happy to announce that DeafNET will host the 6<sup>th</sup> Africa Conference in 2026.

The management endeavours to deepen its commitment towards Deaf people on the African continent, including the Indian Ocean islands, and will continue to focus its core activities. We are looking forward to yet another fruitful and productive year. The Board of Trustees would like to express its warm appreciation for the constant support extended by SVE and DSD throughout 2022 and rely on their strong collaboration for a prolific 2023.

We wish all our donors, sponsors, friends, and beneficiaries a peaceful and joyous festive season as the year finally comes to an end-our deepest gratitude to our staff, colleagues and volunteers working tirelessly for and with the Deaf. Further more, we truly appreciate all the assistance and generosity that has been so forthcoming.

In this issue you will hear more about our projects executed in Africa. Feel free to reach out to us through our social media platform or by e-mail at [projectadmin@deafnet.org](mailto:projectadmin@deafnet.org). Thank you and enjoy the newsletter.

*Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year 2024!*





## DeafNET Africa Conference

The fifth DeafNET Africa Conference on capacity-building initiatives within the Deaf community was hosted in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 21 - 24 November 2022. This event attracted online livestream viewers as well as over 100 participants from 37 African countries.

The purpose of the conference was to explore new initiatives and align projects and activities, advocate and promote Sign Language, identify areas of personal and community development, mobilise community partnerships to give impetus to projects and adopt resolutions.

DeafNET is pleased to announce that the 6<sup>th</sup> DeafNET Africa Conference to be organised in 2026, based on the recommendation of the Board of Trustees.





## SIGN LANGUAGE



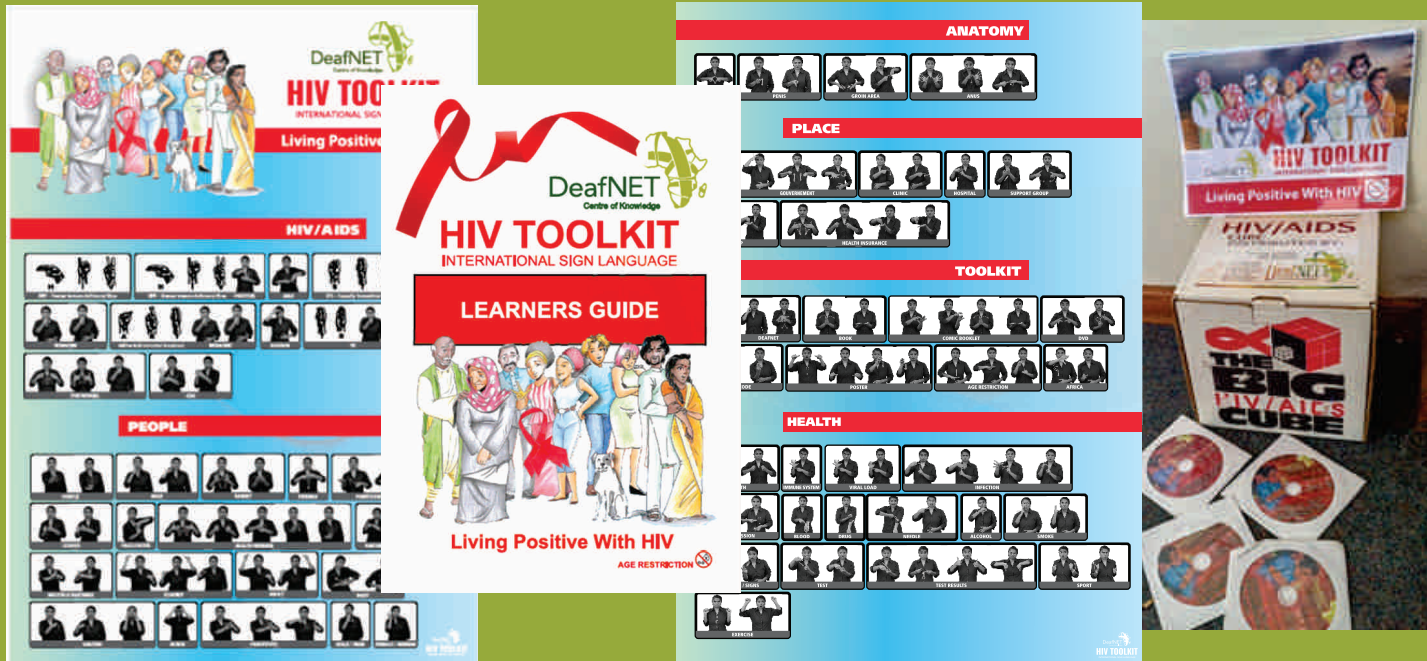
Nine Sign Language training workshops were hosted in the Western Cape as part of youth development for year 2023. DeafNET presented Basic South African Sign Language to youth, not in education, employment and/or training. The 9 workshops took place in Fishoek, Worcester, Nyanga, Stellenbosch, Villiersdorp, Mitchels Plain, Prince Alfred Hamlet and Robertson. About 225 youth and other personnel received training in Basic South African Sign Language. Some previous participants have already started working and some are doing further studies. Sign Language workshop was held from January-December 2023.





## HIV AWARENESS RAISING

The training objectives for HIV awareness raising is to continue mobilising Deaf people to sensitise and raise awareness to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, provide HIV/AIDS information with supporting visual and informative materials.



### MALI

5 JULY 2023



The workshop was held at Ecole des Déficiants Auditifs (EDA), Hippodrome, Mali and facilitated by Ms Balkissa Moukelou. Deaf people participated in the workshop.





**ESWATINI****5 SEPTEMBER 2023**

The second workshop was held in Caritas Centre Auditorium, Manzini, Eswatini. Rev Anthony Langwenya and Mr Makhosini Makhubu facilitated the workshop. The workshop attracted more than 25 Deaf people.

**MORROCO****29 SEPTEMBER 2023**

The workshop was held in Ministry of Health Delegation, Fez, Morocco. It was facilitated by Mr Otmane Omari. 25 people attended the workshop.





## ALGERIA

14 OCTOBER 2023



About 25 Deaf people attended the awareness raising were attracted. The workshop facilitated by Mr Reda Brahmi. The Training was held at Cité Boushaki D154, Bab Ezzouar, Algeria.



## SOCIAL COMPETENCE IN LEADERSHIP

DeafNET's Social Competence in Leadership is designed to develop potential Deaf leaders through guidance, training and inspiration. Deaf leadership initiatives play an important part in improving the lives of Deaf people in Africa.



### UGANDA

3 -7 AUGUST 2023



The workshop was held at the YMCA Training and Conference Centre, Jinja, Uganda. 24 participants under the facilitation of Mr Edgar Bwire and Mr Skukuru K. Debby.





## SOUTH SUDAN

18-22 SEPTEMBER 2023



The workshop was held in Yei, South Sudan at the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. About 20 Deaf people attended the workshop. The facilitator was Mr Edgar Bwire and was assisted by Ms Clara Ladu.



## BOTSWANA

18-22 OCTOBER 2023



Mr Edgar Bwire, Pastor Jimmy Akimu and Mr Shukuru K. Debby facilitated the last Leadership workshop for the year in Gaborone, Botswana. There was about 23 people who attended the workshop.





## THE RED STAR PROCESS

The Red Star Process (RSP) is a method that was developed to bridge the gap between Sign Language and reading-writing competence and bilingualism in learners living with Deafness or hearing loss.



### SOUTH AFRICA

14 AUG – 8 SEPT 2023



DeafNET in partnership with De la Bat school hosted a Red Star Process (RSP) workshop for three educators from Zambia. The Zambian educators received hands-on training in the Red Star Process in the classroom environment where the RSP has been in practice since 2011.



Three Educators from Zambia





## Follow-up in

## MALI

11-15 SEPTEMBER 2023



The workshop took place at Ecole des Déficiants Auditifs (EDA), Hippodrome, Mali. Mr Djerandil Mbaindiguim from Chad and Ms Marie Lousie Kanda from DRC Mali facilitated the follow-up.



## Follow-up in

## MADAGASCAR

2-5 OCTOBER 2023



The follow-up was held at AKANIN'NY MARENINA, Antananarivo, Madagascar. The Red Star Team which consists of Ms Ina Senekal, Ms Maadje Vos and Mr Phillip Cook facilitated the follow up. Furthermore, a special meeting was held between Akama School for the Deaf, FOFOMA School for the Deaf and DeafNET to discuss future cooperation.





## BEEKEEPING IN RWANDA



DeafNET is partnering with Rwanda National Union of the Deaf to implement a two-year project in Beekeeping for the Deaf in the scope of Gicumbi District, Northern Rwanda. The purpose of the project is to economically empower Deaf persons in Rwanda for self-sustainability.





## OTHER INITIATIVES

### IMPLEMENTATION OF RSP IN ZIMBABWE



Ms Petronella Masendeke from King George VI, Zimbabwe, has shared that RSP has been implemented RSP in her school. According to her, the RSP has improved the learner's ability to solve problems in different ways, being creative and developing new ideas. Furthermore, one Deaf learner has received a merit certificate for being the most improved learner during the year 2023.



## NETWORKING

### WFD World Congress

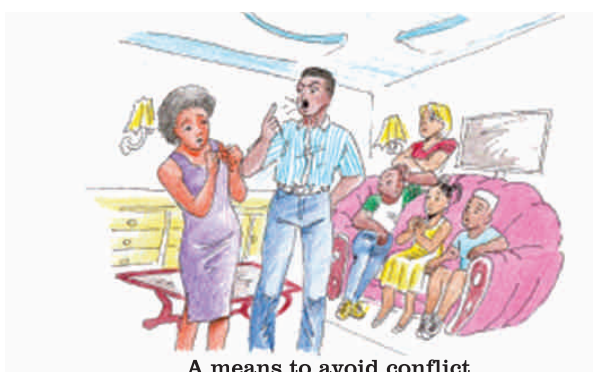
Ms Candice Morgan (chairperson) and Ms Woinshet Ayansa (trustee) represented DeafNET at the 19<sup>th</sup> WFD World Congress in South Korea.





# Gender-Based Violence Toolkit

DeafNET's GBV toolkit aims to ensure that Deaf individuals have equal access to resources and information related to GBV. This is to empower them by providing them with knowledge, skills and resources to identify, prevent and respond to GBV, as well as facilitate access to these resources and ensure that Deaf survivors know where to turn for help. The toolkit will be launched in March 2024.



A means to avoid conflict  
(acceptance of violence)



*Let's create an environment that is  
supportive and safe for our family.*



## RETIREMENT OF REV ATTIE SMIT AS CHAIRMAN

You have been a role model for all of us and we have learned so much from your wisdom, experience, and expertise. We wish you a happy and fulfilling retirement and thank you for everything you have done for DeafNET Centre of Knowledge. Will miss you!



Following the retirement of Rev Attie Smit, Ms Candice Morgan has been appointed as the new chairperson of DeafNET Centre of Knowledge.





## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS AND DONORS



We invite you to become a member of DeafNET.

### 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 email us your proof of payment.*

Email: [accounts@deafnet.org](mailto:accounts@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*