



MEXICO

SOUTH AFRICA

DIGITAL EQUITY ACCELERATOR

MALAYSIA

2023

IMPACT REPORT

 ASPEN
DIGITAL



The Digital Equity Accelerator, an initiative of HP and the Aspen Institute's Aspen Digital, selected 10 non-profit organizations working to support digital equity in Malaysia, Mexico, and South Africa to be part of the 2023 Accelerator cohort. These organizations received unrestricted grant funding, HP technology donations, and participated in a six-month intensive, fully virtual program that aims to empower the non-profits to strategically scale their work and catalyze effective organizational growth and impact. 105 individual staff members from these organizations participated in **28 curriculum sessions, 209 mentoring & Technical Expert consultations**, and approximately **30 hours of pitch practice and coaching** to prepare for the Accelerating Digital Equity Global Summit's Pitch Fest that marked the culmination of the Accelerator program.

The non-profits in this year's cohort reported outcomes at the end of the program related to organizational capacity including enhanced strategic communications and marketing materials, improved measurement and evaluation frameworks and increased operational capabilities.

The Accelerator also collected follow-up data from 7 organizations that participated in the 2022 inaugural cohort for the Digital Equity Accelerator, supporting digital equity work in Morocco, India, and the US. One year after participation in the Accelerator these non-profits report continued benefits to the organization including expanded funding opportunities, increased exposure, visibility, and leadership in the field of digital equity, and increased capacity among staff members.

Among the individuals served across the 2 cohorts this year, **92% belonged to priority groups** targeted for digital equity including programs intentionally serving women and girls, individuals with disabilities, aging populations, educators, healthcare practitioners and other historically disconnected or marginalized groups.

In 2023 the Accelerator contributed to increasing the reach of the 17 organizations across two cohorts to an estimated **6.4 million** individuals in priority groups who directly participated in digital equity programming, or who indirectly benefited from the access to hardware, connectivity, quality relevant content and digital literacy of individuals engaged directly. The organization reach among the 2022 cohort organizations was nearly doubled in 2023 compared to their reach prior to engagement in the Accelerator.

The non-profit organizations that participate in the Accelerator are supporting a range of services for targeted populations with locally relevant solutions to drive impact in the spaces of healthcare, employment, and education. Examples of the impact these organizations contribute to include improvements in digital literacy to increase opportunities for employment or entrepreneurship; providing access to government information, resources and benefits through digital platforms; strengthening networks of educators and enabling access to hardware and educational software in schools; and development of digital platforms for healthcare data management to support improved health outcomes.

The 2023 Digital Equity Accelerator was managed and administered by Aspen Digital, a program of the Aspen Institute.

Cumulatively, across the **two years**, the Accelerator has **contributed to 8.1 million in expanded reach** of the organizations.

BACKGROUND

The Accelerator fuels social innovation by investing worldwide in local nonprofits working to address social and economic injustices that are exacerbated by unequal technology access.

Globally, socio-economic divides are widening as the world becomes more digital and, as a result, people without access to technology are falling further behind. This issue was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Without digital access, use, and fluency, people are excluded from access to economic opportunity, education, healthcare and experience worsening discrimination and social isolation.

.Around one third of the global population (or 2.6 billion people) are unable to access the internet in 2023. This figure masks drastic inequities across and within countries. More than 90 percent of individuals in high-income countries used the internet in 2022, compared to only one in four individuals in low-income countries.²

Even when solutions to digital exclusion are advanced, they far too often fail to aid the most marginalized communities due to their exclusion from the planning and design of these efforts. A few examples of the impacts of digital exclusion are highlighted below.

Impact of Digital Exclusion



The Digital Economy

While ICT related goods and services in global trade increased globally during the pandemic from 2019-2020, the upward trend was seen only in Eastern and South-eastern Asia, while other regions declined, with the sharpest decline in Africa (-48 percent). Source: UN Conference on Trade and Development.

Online Education

Globally it is estimated that 60 percent of upper secondary schools are connected to the internet, while only 50 percent of lower secondary and 40 percent of primary schools are connected. 31 percent of school age children cannot be reached by remote learning, a critical measure that supported resilience for many during COVID-19, but not all. Source: UNICEF Remote Learning and Digital Connectivity.



Digital Health

Countries with higher levels of digital adoption prior to the pandemic were found to have responded more effectively to the pandemic, exhibited more decisive government action, and, as a result, had fewer COVID cases and deaths. Source: World Bank, Digital in Health: Unlocking the Value for Everyone.

² [World Bank Digital Development Overview](#)

The Digital Equity Accelerator aims to empower organizations embedded within marginalized communities – namely, nonprofits and NGOs– that are advancing digital inclusion, and contributing to impact through access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunities for marginalized communities. The Accelerator is committed to expanding reach to under-represented and marginalized groups with digital inclusion programming.

The Accelerator supports nonprofits through three pillars:



Access to Technology

Access to digital infrastructure and technology tools, including hardware and reliable internet connectivity.

Digital Skills

The ability and literacy necessary to use and maintain technology in order to find, evaluate, create, and communicate information at a level needed to participate fully in digital society.



Participatory and Inclusive Content

The active inclusion of marginalized communities in the design and creation of new technologies, tools, and content, in ways that meet these communities' needs.



2022

The Accelerator launched in 2022 with an initial cohort of seven organizations in India, Morocco, and the US. (See Appendix for details on 2022 cohort organizations.) These organizations in total reached **4.7 million** individuals during the initial program period in 2022, including **1.7 million** representing growth in organization reach compared to their baseline reach.

2023 COHORT

For the 2023 cohort, 10 nonprofit organizations were selected from **Malaysia, South Africa, and Mexico**. These three countries were prioritized for the 2023 Accelerator cohort based on factors including internet penetration rates, inequities among demographic groups, as well as potential for impact and influence in the region overall. (See Appendix for additional details on country selection criteria.)

The 10 organizations selected for the 2023 cohort are described on pages 5-7 and represent the finalists of 120 applicants. The organizations were selected based on criteria including organization and project quality, reach & impact, community connection/DEI, and need. The review process included three rounds of reviews with an internal and external technical review panel that included experts from each country. An additional factor for selection was the positioning and ability of the nonprofits to serve priority populations that have suffered the most from digital inequities, including:




- **Women and girls**
- **People with disabilities**
- **Aging populations**
- **Historically disconnected or marginalized groups (e.g., based on race, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status)**
- **And the educators and healthcare practitioners that serve these communities.**

2023 COHORT ORGANIZATIONS



2023 COHORT




MALAYSIA

	What they do	What they're scaling	Priority groups	Impact Area	Reach* (Priority Groups 2023)	
					Direct	Indirect
	Dignity For Children Foundation provides access, education, and support for students and teachers across Malaysia to bridge digital gaps in a changing world. They have a focus on marginalized populations, including refugees, lower-income, indigenous, and stateless children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardware • Connectivity • Digital Literacy • Quality Relevant Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educators • Other marginalized groups 	Education	128	
	National Cancer Society of Malaysia is the first not-for-profit cancer organization in Malaysia providing education, care and support services, and aims to create an online database to enable early detection of cancer. It has a special focus on people in underserved communities including marginalized, aging populations, people with disabilities, and those at high risk of cancer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Relevant Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women & girls • People with disabilities • Aging populations, • Other marginalized groups 	Healthcare	68,380	
	SOLS Foundation aims to create new modules teaching digital skills, professional and personal development, English and life skills and learning workshops in Orang Asli and urban poor communities. The organization's focus is on improving digital awareness and job opportunities for youth at risk of economic exploitation across Malaysia.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardware • Connectivity • Digital Literacy • Quality Relevant Content 	Women & girls, Other marginalized groups	Economic opportunity	744	22

*End of Program Reporting (May-Sept 2023)

2023 COHORT





SOUTH AFRICA

	What they do	What they're scaling	Priority groups	Impact Area	Reach* (Priority Groups 2023)	
					Direct	Indirect
	Digify Africa works to address youth unemployment by reaching “high potential, low opportunity” young people across South Africa and providing them vocational programs, digital skills education, and job pathways. Their solution includes Digibot, a WhatsApp Chatbot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardware • Digital Literacy • Quality Relevant Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other marginalized groups 	Economic opportunity	50,974	247
	E-Cubed (DBE-E3) works with South African educators and youth. Through TeacherConnect, a WhatsApp chatbot and online community, it provides tools to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset and inspire success for young people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Literacy • Quality Relevant Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educators • Other marginalized groups 	Education	189,515	3,818,182
	Siya Funda Community Technology Center CTC aims to scale their Community Knowledge Centers by training existing community organizations and equipping them with curriculum and equipment. Their digital skills-building work focuses on unemployed youth, persons with disabilities, women and girls, and teachers and learners across South Africa.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardware • Connectivity • Digital Literacy • Quality Relevant Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women & girls • People with disabilities • Aging populations • Educators • Other marginalized groups 	Economic opportunity	15,595	62,468

*End of Program Reporting (May-Sept 2023)

2023 COHORT

MEXICO

What they do	What they're scaling	Priority groups	Impact Area	Reach* (Priority Groups 2023)	
				Direct	Indirect
 <p>Instituto de Investigación para el Desarrollo de la Educación, A. C. (IIDEAC) aims to scale Modelo Integral de Educación Digital (MIED), a comprehensive digital education model, deploying it to public elementary schools serving Mayan communities of the Yucatan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardware • Connectivity • Digital Literacy • Quality Relevant Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educators • Other marginalized groups 	Education	29,979	
 <p>La Cana Proyecto de Reinserción Social, A.C. in México, provides education, training, and technical tools for incarcerated and released female prisoners, working to improve their social integration and enabling them to support their families upon release.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardware • Connectivity • Digital Literacy • Quality Relevant Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women & girls • Other marginalized groups 	Economic opportunity	1,396	170
 <p>StartupLab MX is scaling its Digital Transformation Program for women-led, low-income, and rural small businesses across southeast and central México, providing workshops, consulting, digital marketing material, and connecting them with capital and new clients.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardware • Digital Literacy • Quality Relevant Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women & girls • Other marginalized groups 	Economic opportunity	118	113
 <p>UNETE, IAP is scaling its “Modelo Integral UNETE (MIU)” program designed to eradicate digital illiteracy in Mexican public schools which have never been equipped with educational technology through hardware, training, mentorship, and more. They focus on communities in which migrants have left for the U.S., leaving populations of older people, women, and children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardware • Connectivity • Digital Literacy • Quality Relevant Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educators • Other marginalized groups 	Education	985	25,284

***End of Program Reporting (May-Sept 2023)**
See Appendix for details on 2022 Cohort impact & reach

2023 MANAGEMENT



Photo: National Cancer Society Malaysia (2023 Cohort)



Photo: SOLS Foundation (2023 Cohort)

Aspen Digital conceptualized, implemented, administered, and managed all aspects of the Digital Equity Accelerator. This included designing the curriculum, identifying and recruiting Accelerator Faculty and teaching team, distribution of cash-grants to each organization and running all public affairs and communications programming.

HP Inc led the distribution of HP hardware and identification of HP Technical Experts. **HP Inc** also supported the review of the 2023 cohort applications and closely consulted with **Aspen Digital** over the course of the Accelerator.

2023 PROGRAM & PROGRESS

COHORT ACTIVITIES

The Accelerator is a six-month, intensive, fully virtual initiative that helps nonprofit organizations strategically scale their work and catalyze effective organizational growth and change. The Accelerator supports nonprofit organizations in four primary areas, **1)** providing financial and technology awards, **2)** hands on curriculum training, **3)** Mentor & Technical Expert consultations, and **4)** providing opportunities for leadership and visibility. Highlights in terms of progress in 2023 and key metrics for each of these areas of support are described in the table below.

Supports	Description	2023 Progress and Key Metrics
Financial & technological award	Each organization receives USD \$100,000 unrestricted cash award and USD \$100,000 in HP technology.	USD \$1,000,000 in grants awarded. USD \$1,000,000 value in HP technology disbursed
Hands on training	Courses, workshops, and facilitated discussion groups, as well as opportunities to learn from leaders in the field, and from peers working on similar issues. The training is delivered through five modules on digital equity, operations, marketing & communications, leadership and impact.	28 live and recorded courses, peer discussion and learning group sessions were offered through five modules: Community Centered Digital Equity, Operations, Marketing & Communications, Leadership, and Impact. 105 individuals across the ten nonprofits enrolled and attended at least one session. 92% of survey respondents reported individual sessions as useful or very useful. 30 hours of pitch practice & coaching were provided. 90% of organizations (9 of 10) believe they increased their capacity to execute and scale high-quality programming as a result of their participation in the Accelerator.
Mentorship & Technical Expert consultations	One-on-one guidance from experienced leaders in not-for-profit management and growth, and access to a network of subject matter experts on everything from fundraising, to program design, marketing, and more.	463 Technical Experts & Mentors were engaged. 106 Technical Expert consultations completed. 103 Mentor meetings completed totaling 216 hours.
Leadership & visibility	Opportunities for visibility on a global stage, including connections to media, blog posts and social media highlights, and participation in events including a Pitch Fest showcasing cohort nonprofits and Global and Regional Summits.	Over 70 media mentions/ media hits for cohort organizations. 80 individuals voted for Pitch Fest Audience Award during the live event; and 4,959 votes were cast for the People's Choice Award between 1-15 October. 2 organizations reported specific follow-up opportunities or commitments for cohort engagements resulting from events.

FACULTY NETWORK

The Accelerator relies on the engagement of many partners and key stakeholders who serve as “faculty” and support a quality experience for the nonprofit cohort members. In 2023 this included **10 Mentors**, **12 course instructors** who teach live or recorded sessions and facilitate discussion groups, **34 highly skilled Technical Experts** to provide subject-matter expertise and consultations with cohort nonprofits, and one pitch coach.

Mentors were selected through a rigorous public application and interview process and matched individually with each organization based on the organization’s needs and expert’s technical expertise. More than **180 individuals applied**, with **5%** ultimately selected to serve as Mentors, and several additional individuals selected as Technical Experts. Additional Technical Experts were provided by HP.



DAVID BATES



JIA CHUAN KWOK



HUGH MYRES



PAUL RIVERA



ESTHER ZELEDÓN



HAMADA ZAHAWI



MARK VELLA



KASEM RODRIGUEZ
MOHSEN



KATHRYN SEBUCK



RIZWAN TAYABALI

2023 COHORT MENTORS

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Digital inclusion strategies have the opportunity to unlock the potential of 2.7 billion people affected by the digital divide and make real change for these populations. By pursuing digital equity, the world has the opportunity to provide access, power, and systemic change for and with the people that could most benefit.

In 2023, Aspen Digital expanded thought-leadership and public engagement efforts with the intent to:

- Inspire global conversations on digital equity and sustainable development;
- Provide visibility to the Accelerator, its impact, and the 17 cohort members;
- Position the Accelerator and the team behind it as thought leaders in key areas it operates, including ESG, technology for good, digital equity, and sustainable development; and
- Grow the Accelerator's stakeholder network and convert readers to the email list.

As part of the public engagement efforts, between May and October 2023, Aspen Digital hosted a series of **virtual events and conversations** exploring why digitization is a necessary public good and can accelerate progress for key populations, and how public, private, and NGO communities can benefit from global digital equity.

The thought-leadership series was hosted and moderated by **Hazami Barmada**, Lead/Director, Digital Equity Accelerator (Host). Speakers and topics included:

- **21 June 2023: Halfway and Hopeful: Digital Inclusion and the 2030 Development Goals**, **Dr. Francesco Galtieri**, Representative of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Guinea; **Mariama Kabia**, Digital Equity Accelerator Lead, HP; and **Brighton Kaoma**, Global Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Youth initiative
- **11 July 2023: A \$1 Trillion Opportunity: Women, Girls, and Digital Inclusion**, **Thanae Bennani**, Executive Director, Douar Tech; **Jimena Bello González**, Deputy Director, La Cana; **Ana Greta Ibañez**, Co-Founder, StartupLab MX; **Osama Manzar**, Founder & Director, Digital Empowerment Foundation; **Gavin Weale**, Founder and CEO of Digify Africa
- **26 July 2023: Educational Digital Divide: How to Reach 1.6 Billion Students Left Behind**, **Jessica Ángeles**, IIDEAC (Mexico); **James Donald**, Executive Director of E-Cubed/ DBE-3 (South Africa); and **Rebecca Lin**, Head of Education, Dignity for Children Foundation (Malaysia)
- **30 August 2023: Social Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and the Digital Divide**, (co-hosted with the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE)) **Richenda Van Leeuwen**, Executive Director, Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE); **Juan Carlos Thomas**, Head of Entrepreneurship, TechnoServe; and **Juan Navarrete**, Vice President, Fundación Capital

Table 2: Accelerator Public Engagement Programming & Key Metrics

Activity	Description	Key Highlights
Organic Media	Quantity and quality of stories about the accelerator or its cohort per year, including local and international stories in the press and stories published on blogs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 70+ media hits, articles and profiles written about the Accelerator and Cohort's engagement with the Accelerator.
Audience Growth	Email subscribers and followers across social media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth from 168 in Dec. 2022 to 2,776 in Oct 2023 • Growth of 1552% in followership in 2023.
Virtual Events	4 thought-leadership virtual events. See <i>descriptions and guest speakers above</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 552 registered attendees • Over a thousand retroactive views of events on YouTube and social media.
Executive Salon Roundtable Discussion	Private invite-only Salon roundtable during the Aspen Network of Development Entrepreneurs Annual event in Ghana, September 2023.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended by 20 senior and C-suite executives from major global brands and foundations.
Accelerating Digital Equity Global Summit	The Global Summit was held October 17-19. The Summit comprised 4 events: Pitch Fest and 3 regional summits (Africa, Asia, and Latin America). The events brought together global leaders from across philanthropy, technology, government, international development, and social impact to collaborate on closing the digital divide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 349 registered attendees across 4 events • 10 panels • 1 keynote fireside chat
People's Choice Awards	The People's Choice Awards was an opportunity for the 2023 cohort to engage and mobilize their networks to help them win an additional \$9,000 in grant funding by voting for their 60-second pitch video. The award winners were selected by a public vote from a global audience in the lead up to the Accelerating Digital Equity Global Summit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,959 votes from 63 countries • 36,000+ web visits and engagements
Social Media Campaign Performance	Awareness-building videos, vignettes featuring each of the 2023 Accelerator cohort leaders, application, and features of news and stories about digital equity; includes a March "impact" campaign.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2023, over 391,000 total impressions • 5,762 engagements

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:

Mobile Pathways used Accelerator funding to build technology to retrieve and send legal case information using a mobile platform, training partners on how to use the technology, and analyzing data retrieved to drive systemic immigration reform.



IMPACT STORY

Maria, a Honduran asylum seeker, arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border, fleeing domestic violence. As she crossed the border seeking safety, her husband assaulted her in front of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. Despite her obvious need to escape violence, Maria had to undergo a credible fear interview (CFI) at the border.

Failing this interview would result in deportation. Immigration nonprofits work tirelessly to offer pro bono legal counsel to individuals like Maria.

However, due to the rapid processing of cases, immigration advocates require real-time updates as cases like Maria's can be docketed and tried within hours.

Thankfully, border immigration nonprofits supported by **Mobile Pathways** tracked Maria's case from the moment of her arrival. Her pro bono legal counsel received immediate alerts as soon as her case was docketed. This proved crucial as both Maria and her pro bono attorney had only a three-hour notice before her hearing. With proper legal guidance, Maria successfully passed her credible fear interview and is now residing safely in the U.S.



Photos: Mobile Pathways

“WITHOUT OUR TIMELY ALERTS ABOUT IMMIGRATION CASE DATA, HER DEPORTATION WOULD HAVE BEEN INEVITABLE.”

OUR IMPACT: ACCELERATING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The Accelerator curriculum, mentoring, and Technical Expert consultations all aim to contribute to strengthening the capacity of the non-profits to deliver and scale high quality programming. There is a primary representative from each organization, and up to five additional staff members from each organization can join the curriculum sessions. Examples of sessions that received high feedback ratings in terms of the usefulness of the content from cohort participants are described below.

At the end of each of the five modules, cohort members are surveyed to assess their satisfaction and perceived usefulness of the module content and individual sessions. **Over 95% of participants** across sessions reported that they have ideas for how to apply the learnings from the module or how they will refer to the information, tools and resources in their work. The Marketing & Communications module received the highest rating on this question.



Adaptive Leadership (Hazami Barmada)

- Adapt to change and manage ambiguity and uncertainty.
- Develop and implement strategies to build resilience in their organization, including fostering a culture of innovation, risk-taking, and learning.

Technology Management (Karen Graham)

- Assess digital maturity within your organization.
- Apply human-centered design to technology innovation.
- Understanding technology management through user personas and customer journeys.
- Create a technology plan and explore ideas with ideation, prototyping, and stories.



Introduction to Impact Evaluation (Win Brown)

- Explore what measuring and evaluating impact means in the context of nonprofit work.
- Learn how to adopt a results-based approach, aligning activities and strategies with desired outcomes.
- Learn how to develop theories of change, set clear objectives, and establish performance indicators to monitor progress and assess impact.



Highest rated sessions for
usefulness of content

OUR IMPACT: ACCELERATING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Dissemination of learnings, beyond the attendees participating in the curriculum sessions, is also reported qualitatively through survey responses, indicating many are implementing and sharing the tools and resources across their organizations.

This year's cohort report three key themes in terms of the impact of the Accelerator on their organizational capacity and operational improvements at the end of the 6-month program period:

Strategic Communication & Marketing

7 organizations reported:

- Stronger impact storytelling
- Updated branding and communications strategies
- Enhanced social media content and strategy

Measurement & Evaluation Frameworks and Tools

6 organizations reported:

- Developed comprehensive theory of change and M&E framework
- Aligned data gathering to support impact assessment
- Improved data-driven decision-making approaches

Operations & Staffing

4 organizations reported:

- Motivated team members
- Strengthened change management communication
- Improved work environment and efficiency of employees with new technology

“Thus, the takeaways of the mentorship and tech expert sessions are for the long term and cut across time and programmes. The enriched research methodologies, instructional design framework, M&E system, effective marketing strategy, and newly revamped and developed modules, are transferrable and expected to impact multiple cycles of production and delivery.”

SOLS Foundation

TESTIMONIALS

“... We have utilized many of the expert sessions to reinforce our communication strategies, also building upon internal and public communication documents that had already existed for us, but absolutely improved after such great feedback. This feedback helped us polish our grant application strategy, marketing and communications, and overall understanding of how internal development is linked to reaching our goals and working towards producing the impact we work so hard towards.”

UNETE



“We have started work on designing our Digify Pro programme Theory of Change (TOC). Our session with Cory Steinhauer was a complete eye-opener in that we have yet to showcase our TOC in an easy-to-understand and practical way. We had all the correct information but needed to simplify how we showcase ourselves to all our stakeholders.”

Digify Africa

“The IT equipment donation has been instrumental in enhancing our internal operations, expanding our outreach, and improving the overall impact of our programs. The technology has empowered our organization to continue its mission of promoting digital equity and inclusion, and we are deeply grateful for the generous support that has allowed us to achieve these milestones.”

Siyafunda

ALUMNI TESTIMONIAL

“The participation in the Accelerator has played a significant role in upgrading the digital systems at Fourth Wave Foundation which has been key to scaling the impact of our projects at the grassroots. This is also pivotal in all grant applications and funding requests as digital mechanisms are recognised as key success factors for effective program implementation in the development sector. The recognition from the Accelerator has also been strategic in positioning Fourth Wave Foundation as a digital accelerator in the development sector. The [BBC story](#) on the partnership with HP has helped to share the Fourth Wave Foundation model with large stakeholder groups and potential funders for the programs.”

Fourth Wave Foundation



Photo: Fourth Wave Foundation

CONTINUING IMPACT FROM 2022 COHORT

2 ORGS REPORT **EXPANDED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

E-STEM Morocco secured additional funding following Demo Day participation including through 3M impact project, Technovation seed grant, and Global Giving grant.

Mobile Pathways increased revenue by **63%** in the year following participation in the Accelerator

Accelerator brand helped **E-STEM Morocco** with visibility and credibility, leading to increased partnerships with international organizations.

Douar Tech revamped their value proposition and positioned themselves as a leader in digital equity in Africa.

4 ORGS REPORT **INCREASED VISIBILITY & LEADERSHIP**

Digital Empowerment Foundation reports increased exposure and visibility through Demo Day experience attracting more attention and support for the cause.

3 ORGS REPORT **INCREASED STAFF CAPACITY**

Oasis Institute applied learnings on starting a project, developing proper M&E frameworks, and evaluating projects as they roll out, in addition to how to adapt to consumer needs and feedback. The project director also benefited from learning from international cohort members and gaining new perspectives.

2023 IMPACT SPOTLIGHT: LA CANA

Julia's Odyssey: Discovering the World Through Technology

Julia's story with La Cana began in an unlikely place - a crochet workshop in prison. But as fate would have it, her innate curiosity led her down a path she'd never imagined. She found herself in the midst of La Cana's computer workshop, made possible through support from Aspen Digital and HP, eager to unravel the mysteries of technology. With each session, Julia's initial enthusiasm evolved into a profound understanding and appreciation. She wasn't just learning about computers; she was discovering their indispensable role in our daily lives.

Reflecting on her journey, Julia shares, "Now, I not only understand the essence of a computer but also its significance in our lives. The workshop was a whirlwind of emotions - starting with sheer excitement and culminating in a treasure trove of knowledge that I'll carry with me forever."

Julia's tale is a poignant reminder of the doors education and the joint work between Aspen Digital, HP and La Cana can open. Even in the face of adversity, with curiosity as our compass, there's always room for growth, discovery, and transformation. Julia is very grateful to ASPEN and HP because she knows that they believed in her and gave her a great opportunity.



Photo: La Cana

OUR IMPACT: ACCELERATING REACH & SCALE

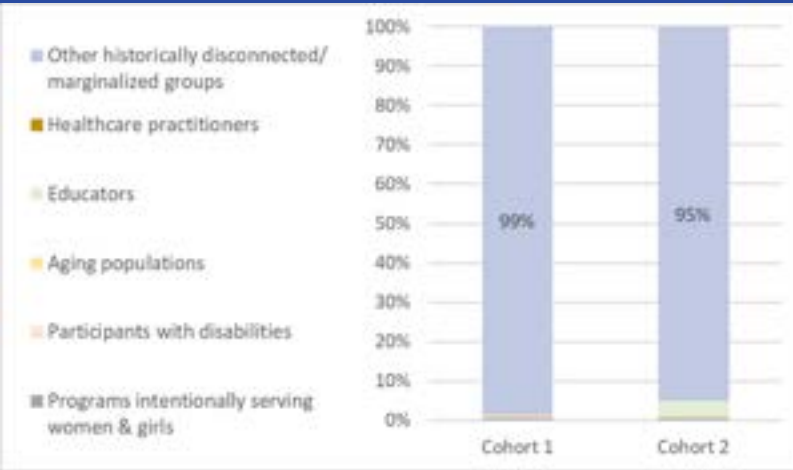
The Accelerator aims to contribute to organizational growth in terms of the reach and scale of the nonprofits that are supported. The key metrics used to measure organizational reach are direct reach, defined as direct recipients of programs benefiting from access to hardware, connectivity, quality content, digital literacy or business solutions, and indirect reach, defined as people who are benefited through direct recipients' access to hardware, connectivity, quality content, and digital literacy. For example, teachers participating in a digital training program and receiving access to computers are considered direct reach, while the students they serve who benefit from the digital skills that teachers have acquired and access to hardware provided are reported as indirect reach.

In 2023 the Accelerator contributed to **increasing the reach of the organizations spanning the two cohorts to an estimated 6.4 million** additional individuals in priority groups who directly engaged in digital equity programming, or who indirectly benefited from the access to hardware, connectivity, quality content and digital literacy of direct participants. (See Appendix for details.)

At the end of 5-months of participation in the Accelerator program, the ten nonprofits in the **2023 cohort reported a total reach of 4.3 million individuals.** This reflected an estimated **increase of approximately 3.7 million** from their baseline organizational reach prior to participating in the Accelerator, a **229% growth in reach** across the organizations.

Breakdown by Priority Groups

In addition to reporting on total reach (see next page), the nonprofits also report data on the participant breakdown within priority groups that the Accelerator aims to serve. The breakdown of individuals served across Cohort 1 and 2 can be seen in the chart below. The majority of participants fall into other historically disconnected or marginalized group categorization, which is defined by each organization and includes marginalized racial and ethnic groups, low-income or refugee populations.



Estimated Accelerator Contribution to Reach in 2023

2022 Cohort	India	351,212
	Morocco	11,793
2023 Cohort	US	2,345,821
	South Africa	3,629,688
	Mexico	35,110
	Malaysia	20,860

Breakdown by Geographic Reach

Organization reach varies significantly by geography, with the largest growth in reach to date in South Africa and the US, primarily driven by a single large-scale program in each country.

2023 COHORT REACH

	Direct	Indirect	Total
Digify Africa Foundation	50,974	247	51,221
E-Cubed	189,515	3,818,182	4,007,697
Siyafunda	15,595	62,468	78,063
StartUp Lab MX	118	113	231
UNETE	985	25,284	26,269
La Cana	1,396	170	1,566
IIDEAC	29,979	-	29,979
Dignity for Children Foundation	128	-	128
National Cancer Society of Malaysia	68,380	-	68,380
SOLS Foundation	744	22	766

COHORT
**DIRECT
REACH:**
357,814

COHORT
**INDIRECT
REACH:**
3,906,486

COHORT
**TOTAL
REACH:**
4,264,300

END OF PROGRAM REPORTING (MAY-SEPT 2023) FOR INDIVIDUALS IN PRIORITY GROUPS ONLY

2022 COHORT 1 YEAR UPDATE

	Direct	Indirect	Total
Digital Empowerment Foundation	480	58,398	58,878
Fourth Wave Foundation	122,435	177,686	300,121
Douar Tech	3,348	7,630	10,978
E-STEM Morocco	2,700	3,044	5,744
E4 Youth	261	109	370
Mobile Pathways	1,454,889	3,709,967	5,290,675
Oasis Institute	12,907	-	12,907

Much of the training, mentorship, and increased visibility of the nonprofits, takes time to affect changes in the organization and programming. Additionally, the implementation of programming plans utilizing the grant funding and deploying the technology solutions also takes time, beyond the 6-month program period.

Given this context the Accelerator collects data at two points in time: when nearing the end of the 6-month program, and then again at one year following the organization's engagement in the Accelerator.

The seven nonprofits that participated in the 2022 cohort reported organization reach data as of the end of September 2023, with a total reach of 5.7 million at one year post engagement in the Accelerator. The Accelerator contributed to a growth in reach of 2.8 million individuals, a doubling from the baseline organizational reach across the seven nonprofits. Four of the seven organizations more than doubled their reach.

COHORT
DIRECT
REACH:
1,597,020

COHORT
INDIRECT
REACH:
3,956,833

COHORT
TOTAL
REACH:
5,553,853

1-YEAR FOLLOW-UP REPORTING (OCT 1, 2022 - SEP 30, 2023)
FOR INDIVIDUALS IN PRIORITY GROUPS ONLY

2023 IMPACT SPOTLIGHT:



“Having received the laptops has really improved our work productivity and advances our workplace environment. So far we have trained 45 candidates for Digital literacy programme. The candidates were enlightened on the use of internet and online safety, and also giving them the access to the internet for job searches and online CV accounts.

The main challenge that we had before was training equipment especially to those candidates who stay far, but now it is simple to carry out the laptops as they are easily movable. There is also one student who is currently doing Digify Pro. She is having access to the laptop and the team is giving her relevant support.



We have a massive database of people who usually come at our centre to enquire about the training, workshops and ICT related programs. Having these laptops in our centre is yet to develop and change the lives of our people for better especially the youth.”

Vukani Solutions - Digify Africa Partner

OUR IMPACT: ACCELERATING ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT

Given the diversity of programs across the nonprofits participating in the Accelerator there is not a single indicator of participant outcomes or impact that can be applied across the organizations. The nonprofits are therefore asked to report available quantitative and qualitative evidence that is meaningful for their programs to demonstrate how participants have benefitted from their work and the overall impact of their programs.

This data is valuable for the Accelerator to understand not only the contribution to organization reach and changes related to organizational outcomes, but also the Accelerator's contribution to changes related to participant outcomes and impact in terms of bridging the digital divide and improving healthcare, education, or economic opportunity for underserved communities.

One of the modules of the Accelerator capacity strengthening curriculum focused on impact and how to measure program outcomes and impact. Many of the non-profits are working on strengthening their measurement and evaluation systems based on these learnings.

Examples of quantitative metrics that the non-profits are either currently reporting on or are building data collection systems to report on include:

- **% of participants** demonstrating improved digital skills following program participation
- **# of participants** placed in a job following skills training
- **% improvement** in school retention rates, advancement rates, or grades following provision of digital solutions and training
- **% of households** with increased income reported following program participation

Qualitative data is also reported in the form of impact stories of individual participants, documented photo evidence of program activities or outputs, video testimonials from participants, and key insights or excerpts from participant interviews.

A summary with additional details on organization outcomes, reach and impact for each organization is presented in the following section.

Empowering Rural India:

Transforming Lives Through Knowledge and Digital Literacy

“My journey with the **Digital Empowerment Foundation** was truly transformative. It opened my eyes to the immense potential we have to make a positive impact on our lives, families, and communities. As I became a part of this project, I realized the power of knowledge and empowerment.

In the past, I used a smartphone, but I lacked the confidence to use it effectively. However, my association with the Safeguarding Rural India through critical digital literacy project changed that. The learning I received was invaluable. Not only did I enhance my own skills, but **I also had the privilege to train 15 women** from my community. Witnessing their excitement as they discovered the capabilities of smartphones was truly gratifying.

As I deepened my involvement, I established a center within my community. **It was a proud moment for me, knowing that I could make a difference in the lives of those around me.** The convenience of having essential services accessible within our village was a welcome change for everyone. From Aadhar cards to pen cards, photocopies, pension assistance, and income certificates, I offered a range of services that uplifted the community.

This transformative journey added another layer to my education, allowing me to contribute even more effectively. Alongside my fellow community members, I recognized the importance of safeguarding rural India through critical digital literacy. We understood the pressing need to combat fake news and misinformation. As a community member (Rekha) aptly quoted, **"With knowledge comes the power to discern truth from falsehood."**

Our gratitude knows no bounds for DEF, which played an instrumental role in this transformative journey. This **Aspen and HP** supported project has not only empowered us with skills and knowledge but has also **kindled a fire to protect our community against the perils of misinformation.** As we continue on this path, we are committed to spreading the light of awareness and digital literacy in every corner of rural India.

Participant, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

Photo: Digital Empowerment Foundation

2022 COHORT

One Year Post Accelerator

INDIA

	Use of funds/ technology	Capacity Strengthening	Org Reach	Org Impact
Digital Empowerment Foundation	Funding was used for trainings, set up costs, as well as to support content development for four modules on digital literacy training. Supported staffing, training, and technology devices for infopreneurs to establish income generating work.	Enhanced program content, including content tailored to end users and development of engaging activity-oriented modules. Strengthened monitoring and evaluation to better track program progress and impact. Increased exposure and visibility through Demo Day experience attracting more attention and support for the cause of digital equity. Improved data-driven decision-making.	Initiated program reaching thirty Infopreneurs who provide digital literacy training to 450 women in rural communities in addition to offering digital services to community members. Plans to continue to scale program in early 2024 to reach an additional ninety infopreneurs, training over 1300 women . Eventually the digital literacy program will be integrated with other DEF programs.	Participants demonstrate improved digital literacy and skills following program completion, as well as increased access to information, particularly related to government benefits and entitlements. The programs increase the digital services available in rural communities through infopreneurs offering services to community members. The program also contributes to empowerment of women infopreneurs and economic impact through income generating businesses.
Fourth Wave Foundation	Funds and technology were used to support state level capacity building program for government resources and teachers to support inclusive education for children with disabilities. Technology was used to provide remote therapy to children with disabilities in rural areas to enable children to attend mainstream schools. Technology was also used to support substance abuse prevention program with school children.	Improved pitch delivery to partners, and improved ability to communicate impact numbers. Increased knowledge of topics such as adaptive leadership, governance and compliance, lean canvas and financial modeling.	Reached 800 participants across nine districts with training of government resources and teachers to enable inclusive education for children with disabilities. Reached over 116,000 students across 391 schools with digital programming related to substance abuse prevention and awareness.	Enabled children with disabilities to participate in mainstream education system through providing remote access to therapy and treatment services vital to their quality of life and providing mandated resources to enable inclusion in government schools. Trained government resources, among whom 61% had never had prior training on inclusive education.

2022 COHORT

One Year Post Accelerator

MOROCCO

	Use of funds/ technology	Capacity Strengthening	Org Reach	Org Impact
Douar Tech	Supported staffing to convert employees from contract to full-time staff to support program sustainability. Supported inauguration of a new entrepreneurship center in southern Morocco that will be equipped with donated devices.	Revamped organization's value proposition and positioned as leader in the field of digital equity. Introduced digital literacy as a new component of the program to empower women entrepreneurs to enhance their small businesses. Additionally incorporated training of trainers to encourage women to support digital literacy within their communities.	Over 3,300 young women participated in the program this year or completed one of the workshops, an increase from 900 women served in 2021.	Participants have gained practical skills such as entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and website design, and received ongoing support through peer mentors and collaboration with local partners.
E-STEM Morocco	Funding was primarily allocated to platform development, staffing, events & training workshops. Laptops were utilized by the operational staff and distributed to partner NGOs to equip digital centers to allow girls access to digital infrastructure.	The Demo Day pitch helped engage more than fifty partners in public and private sector, academia, civil society and media, and helped secure additional funding (3 million impact project, Technovation seed grant, and Global Giving grant). Accelerator curriculum helped shape the operational execution plan, establish KPIs, refine org structure, and improve messaging. Accelerator brand helped with media visibility and credibility. Increased partnership with international orgs.	More than 1,000 girls have been trained and mentored, and nearly 3,000 have registered and engaged on the TITRIT platform.	With the new digital platform supported by the Accelerator the organization is able to reach into very rural areas and partner with NGOs to provide access to girls who had never engaged with STEM programs.

2022 COHORT

One Year Post Accelerator

U S A

Use of funds/ technology

Capacity Strengthening

Org Reach

Org Impact

E4 Youth

Supported staffing and infrastructure for Creative Leadership Academy to train youth to lead high school enrichment clubs, develop content for recorded storytelling project, and lead digital literacy training for K-8 youth. Laptops were distributed to staff, youth leads and high school students.

Sharpened understanding of the product market fit of the "What Once Was" storytelling platform and revamped their value proposition for stakeholders. Increased capacity among senior staff members. Developed relationships with technical experts. Continued to garner recognition and support, as evidenced by new partnership with local housing authority.

Over the past year, E4 Youth **doubled the number of K - 12 students** served while also adding depth to the skills and experiences that they acquire. The program **reached 440 individuals** across the leadership academy, high school clubs, and teachers enrolled in curriculum training.

80% of current participants report that their social and communication skills and ability to connect with others has improved as a result of participating in the program. Developed an engagement model that provides employers with powerful opportunities for community engagement that enhance employees' sense of belonging as they coach and hire the youth participating in the programs and learn about the rapidly vanishing cultures in their cities. **100% of college-aged youth that successfully complete the CLA move on to full-time employment or graduate school programs.**

Mobile Pathways

Funding was allocated to building technology to retrieve and send legal case information, training partners on how to use the technology, and analyzing data retrieved to drive systemic immigration reform. Hardware donations were shared among Legal Defense Coalition partners to be able to better serve immigrant communities, informing them of basic legal rights.

Since Demo Day, the organizational **budget has grown by 63%, to \$1.5M** today. The staff has grown to a team of four dedicated full-time employees and nine part-time staff.

The number of immigrants served by partner non-profits utilizing the MyCamino online platform has **increased from 795,000 in 2021 to ~1.5M individuals**, with estimated indirect reach of 3.8M household members also benefiting from these services.

Developed a scraping technology that collects and alerts underserved immigrants and their advocates about changes to their case reported through government websites and sends alerts via the online MyCamino portal, processing thousands of cases daily. With **over 100M data points on cases collected** from government and partners, Mobile Pathways launched a series of data dashboards called "Asylum Navigator" to support immigration and asylum advocates with actionable insights and trends, empowering partners to make informed decisions when assisting asylum seekers.

2022 COHORT

One Year Post Accelerator

USA (CONT'D)

	Use of funds/ technology	Capacity Strengthening	Org Reach	Org Impact
Oasis Institute	Supported expansion of technology education program including curriculum development, salary for program director, and subscriptions to launch LearnDash LMS website OasisOnDemand.org providing online digital learning for aging adults. Funding supported a new web server to host online registrations. Technology was provided to administrative staff, and for computer labs at local program sites serving older adults.	Applied learnings about starting a project, developing proper M&E frameworks, and evaluating projects as they roll out, in addition to learning how to adapt to consumer needs and feedback. Benefited from learning from international cohort members and gaining new perspectives.	Developed a low-cost scalable model that can be implemented by partner orgs across the country. Increased participant reach by 30% reaching nearly 13,000 aging adults over the last year, and benefitting nearly 70,000 household and extended family members .	89% of Oasis participants agreed their experiences were intellectually stimulating. 86% agreed it had enriched their lives. 93% can use what they learned to stay connected with family and friends, and 85% learned about using new technology skills . Oasis has begun a new focus on workforce development issues to address needs as population demographics shift.

2023 COHORT

Organization Outcomes & Impact

MEXICO

	Use of funds/ technology	Capacity Strengthening	Org Reach	Org Impact
UNETE	Funding supported three rural schools with classroom devices, teacher training, satellite internet connection, access to digital content. Technology donations used for UNETE employees.	Improved work environment and efficiency of employees with donated technology equipment. Developed strategic communication materials to support launch in US.	UNETE's total reach in the 2023-24 school year includes 86 schools, reaching over 25,000 students . Accelerator funding specifically supported three schools with 26 teachers, serving a total of 625 students .	No impact to date given recent delivery of technology and teacher trainings initiated.
La Cana	Acquired software and additional computers for computer skills courses for imprisoned women. Expanded staffing to teach courses and purchased classroom supplies.	Improved website; narrative storytelling approach with partners; and expanded partnership efforts to form alliances with new sectors. Staff are working on an enhanced theory of change for the organization.	La Cana served 1,396 imprisoned or recently released women during the 5-month reporting period with a range of educational and training programs. They provided computer courses to 205 women through the launch of courses in five additional prisons, and expanded course offerings in previous program to offer more advanced computer skills trainings. La Cana also provided computers for a half-way house, transition to freedom program.	80.7% of women have increased their technical knowledge on how to use a computer and 52.6% have increased their soft skills . Beyond the computer courses, women are able to access the computers to pursue online educational opportunities, digital training courses, and certification programs.

2023 COHORT

Organization Outcomes & Impact

MEXICO

	Use of funds/ technology	Capacity Strengthening	Org Reach	Org Impact
StartUp Lab Mexico	Allocated HP laptops to small business owners (primarily women) and supported them with training and services to transform their business using digital tools.	Improved social media content and better communication with varying audiences. Improved measurement and follow-up to understand program impact over time. Increased capacity to apply for grants and seek allies.	100 entrepreneurs were equipped with laptops, and 150 individuals (including employees) were trained with digital skills or provided digital services.	By the end of the program, 83% of the companies had opened and activated a Facebook account , and 100% had opened an Instagram account . Of these, 66% increased their followers from ten to 100, and 83% increased their followers from 10 to 60. As a result, 100% of the companies now have a functional and optimized website that serves the purpose of each business. Out of these, 33% have an online store function, 16% primarily aim to schedule appointments, and 50% aim to inform and position their brand in search engines, creating a professional and reliable business card.
IIDEAC	Funding supported staffing, training of principals and teachers, technical support and evaluation support for 11 schools in the Yucatan equipped with hardware and educational software tools.	Updated communication plan, enhanced focus on teacher motivation, improved messaging for fundraising efforts.	11 new schools have received equipment this year. The educational platform provided by IIDEAC now serves nearly 30,000 teachers and students .	New schools have been connected and equipped this school year in an area of Mexico where 70% do not have access to a computer or electronic device at home . 52% of teachers have been actively creating classes on the platform and 42% of students have been actively engaging with software content in the first month of the school year.

2023 COHORT

Organization Outcomes & Impact

SOUTH AFRICA

	Use of funds/ technology	Capacity Strengthening	Org Reach	Org Impact
Digify Africa	Supported an extended contract for key project administrator for Hubs Network Partnership Program. Laptops were allocated to six hubs across South Africa to support digital skills training program. A second phase of allocation of laptops to additional hubs is planned in early 2024.	Alignment of staff around organizational values. Implementing design thinking/ human centered design into program expansion plans. Developing program theory of change. Improving branding and communications approach.	149 individuals were trained as part of the Digify PRO online training program in the 5-month reporting period, including 39 in Nigeria and thirteen in Kenya. An additional 247 individuals were reached using the laptops that were distributed to learning hubs. An additional 50,000 individuals were trained on internet safety and basic digital skills through learning bots created by Digify Africa.	Agreement and plans in place to rollout a new program to be offered to Digify Pro Alumni focused on entrepreneurship skills. Declining job placement rates were observed due to lack of formal internship and job opportunities. Accelerator mentor facilitated a connection to a partner with an established program and curriculum focused on business and entrepreneur skills.
Siyafunda	Supported training, facilitation, logistics and project management across a range of digital skills training programs reaching marginalized individuals. The technology was used to support internal operations and expansion to new community hubs.	Learned about legal and compliance risks relevant to digital training programs and was able to strengthen compliance and mitigate risks. Improved M&E systems to support data-driven decision-making. Improved leadership structures and communication channels, improving operational efficiencies. Improved grant writing skills. Generated media attention, increasing exposure and awareness among community partners.	Expanded to nine new computer hubs in peri-urban and rural communities and reached over 15,000 individuals through training programs in the 5-month reporting period.	Participant testimonial: "I cannot emphasize enough how Siyafunda CTC's programs have changed my life. Before, I was limited in what I could do online, and job opportunities were scarce. After completing their digital skills program, I've not only gained the confidence to apply for more jobs, but I also secured a position that I wouldn't have dreamed of before. Now, I can access online resources for learning and entertainment, which has enriched my life in numerous ways. Siyafunda CTC's impact on my life has been tremendous."

2023 COHORT

Organization Outcomes & Impact

SOUTH AFRICA

	Use of funds/ technology	Capacity Strengthening	Org Reach	Org Impact
E-Cubed	Supported digital training, support services, M&E and staffing for TeacherConnect chatgroup and online community to support teachers, parents and students to cultivate entrepreneurial mindset. Technology has been used for internal operations. Remaining devices will be allocated to educators and partner orgs.	Strengthened research to support enhanced user experience; improved impact story-telling and communications, including a revamped website; and improved program theory of change.	Provided access to vital career and subject guidance to 48,066 grade 9 students. 155,000 teachers were enrolled in TeacherConnect as of September 2023. 82% are in schools serving children in wealth quintiles 1-3. The teachers enrolled serve an estimated 4.6 million students.	Surveyed 777 users and conducted interviews with twenty users to identify insights on what is going well and to understand the opportunity that TeacherConnect has for transformative impact in supporting teaching practices, especially for educators operating within resource-limited settings. 33% of teachers surveyed use TeacherConnect for accessing teaching resources and learning materials, 32% use it to find information for their own professional development. 72% find it very useful in their daily tasks.

2023 COHORT

Organization Outcomes & Impact

MALAYSIA

	Use of funds/ technology	Capacity Strengthening	Org Reach	Org Impact
Dignity for Children Foundation	Supported new laptops, equipment and furniture for a new computer facility within the school to teach kids basic computer skills and utilize SplashLearn software for math, improve security within the school, and upgrade existing network.	Identified specializations among org leaders. Aligned data gathering to support impact assessment. Researched solutions for hardware and software management.	Computer lab will eventually serve approximately 500 primary students per year to access SplashLearn platform, and 300 students ages 13-15 to teach ICT lessons focused on productivity tools, coding, and graphics editing. 155 students served to date.	Created a computer lab classroom where previously devices had to be brought into classes and set up for each class. Increased access to SplashLearn for young children to learn math on an engaging platform. Teachers are able to save class time by going to the computer facility, and can use the SplashLearn software to track progress of students who need more help or practice.
SOLS Foundation	Supported scaling of Skills Hub program including promotion and delivery of existing programs, and research and design of new programs. Funding supported staffing, delivery logistics, operational costs, and marketing. Research was conducted with indigenous and remote communities to better understand their needs and design programs to serve them through mobile training units.	Developing a comprehensive theory of change and M&E framework and tools. Applying human-centered design to inform data collection and research for program design. Improving operations including motivating team members, strengthening change management, and improved marketing and communications.	Increased enrollment of online training program sixfold in the 3rd quarter. Reached over 1,000 participants in the 5-month reporting period through digital skills training in person and online.	Participants in a Meta Boost course for business owners indicate better engagement with customers on their social media business pages after completing the course, and some attribute higher sales to the techniques learned in the course. Programs working with rural indigenous youth have increased digital literacy, safety, awareness, and accessibility among the rural population.
National Cancer Society Malaysia	Supported development of National Cancer Screening Registry with help of a web developer. Supported necessary technology, supplies, and volunteer remuneration for mobile cancer screening events.	Increased awareness and understanding of key topics including continuous improvement efforts among staff, theory of change and leadership skills.	Over 68,000 individuals were reached with cancer screening, prevention and education activities in the 5-month reporting period.	Screenings identified 95 new positive colorectal cancer cases , of which 80 were detected at an early stage and are currently receiving treatment. Re-initiated HPV vaccine activities that were paused during COVID pandemic, with 500 individuals receiving first dose of HPV vaccine .

CONCLUSION: KEY INSIGHTS

In the second year of the Accelerator, the program team applied many lessons learned from the inaugural year and adapted the programming in response to feedback and learnings. These adaptations have resulted in significant improvements in program feedback and ability to measure program outcomes. For example, the selection criteria for nonprofits were adjusted to ensure readiness for scale, including a requirement that organizations have established a minimum baseline reach of 25,000.

In addition, the engagement approach with nonprofits was also modified to ensure the Accelerator is not only strengthening capacity of individual leaders within an organization, but rather empowering and strengthening capacity for the organization as a whole, by engaging a broader representation of staff members in the curriculum and training program.

A primary representative from each organization was still selected, but they participated on behalf of and engaged their organization overall, rather than participating as an individual representative.

This recognizes the key risks of leadership transitions and turnovers and the need to mitigate that risk with a strong foundation of organizational capacity. Additionally, the approach to data collection and reporting has improved with more specific reporting guidance, indicator definitions, and standard reporting tools to ensure the Accelerator can adequately capture the contribution to participant reach.

This year the first round of follow-up data from the inaugural cohort has been reported, providing insights to better understand the longer-term impact of the Accelerator on the nonprofit organizations and the communities they serve.

Organizations in the first cohort reported impact of the Accelerator including increased access to funding that directly resulted from their participation in last year's Global Summit event, and contribution to participant outcomes such as improved digital literacy, and increased income as a result of revenue generated from digital service offerings. One organization reports that the technology and funding provided through the Accelerator allowed them to aggregate publicly available data that provides actionable guidance to individual asylum seekers in the US. Additionally, this data is now being used as a comprehensive dataset to analyze patterns and biases in immigration court decision-making and inform advocacy efforts in support of broader changes in immigration policy and court procedures.

The follow-up reporting has provided key insights and learnings, including a better understanding of the reality in terms of the time required for some organizations to implement their plans related to deployment of grant funding and hardware donations. For a small number of organizations that have not yet fully deployed their resources the Accelerator will follow-up to collect additional organization reach data following the full deployment of the Accelerator resources.

As we look ahead, we are confident in the impact and potential in the model we've developed to accelerate digital equity, and invite other global technology companies and philanthropic efforts to rise up to the challenge of centering their investments into the leadership, visions and work of nonprofit organizations who are often overlooked as critical partners in digital transformation and development. We hope that others will follow HP's bold leadership in ensuring that technology use and access around the world is equitable.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



This incredible journey could not have been possible without the generous funding and support of **HP Inc.** and **HP Foundation**. We want to acknowledge the hard work and visionary leadership of Aspen Digital's Global Digital Equity team spearheaded by **Hazami Barmada** who served as the Director of the Digital Equity Accelerator, with invaluable contributions from **Leana Mayzlina**, **Elizabeth Vivirito**, **Andrew Keller**, and **Jessica Borich**. And the support of the broader Aspen Digital team **Vivian Schiller**, **Zaki Barzinji**, **Carner Derron**, and **Tricia Kelly**. We would also like to thank our global network of 112 Advisors, Mentors, Faculty and Technical Experts. And, of course, most of all, we are grateful to the 17 organizations from around the world for their trust, leadership and commitment to those they serve— they made the Accelerator a true success.

The culmination of the 2023 Digital Equity Accelerator cohort will also mark the transition of the administration and management of the Accelerator to HP Inc, which will continue to run future iterations of the program. As Aspen Digital, we are proud to have designed and established a strong foundation off of which HP and others can springboard forward.

APPENDIX

2022 COHORT

INDIA

What they do	What they're scaling	Priority groups	Impact Area	Reach	
				Direct	Indirect
 <p>Digital Empowerment Foundation provides women from rural communities with critical digital literacy skills, tools to fight back against disinformation and online harassment, and the support needed to help many more families do the same.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardware • Digital Literacy • Quality Relevant Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women & girls, Other marginalized groups 	Economic opportunity	480	58,398
 <p>Fourth Wave Foundation empowers children with disabilities and special needs to find their own spaces within the education system through the use of innovative technologies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardware • Quality Relevant Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with disabilities, Other marginalized groups 	Education	122,435	177,686

2022 COHORT

MOROCCO



Douar Tech trains, supports and connects youth from disadvantaged communities to achieve socio-economic autonomy, with entrepreneurship, essential and digital skills in a way that fosters inclusion, digital equity and community development.

- Hardware
- Digital Literacy
- Quality Relevant Content

- Women & girls, Other marginalized groups

Economic opportunity

3,348

7,630



eSTEM Morocco provides women and girls with tools to help them pursue careers in science and technology, reaching more than 950 people and catalyzing the development of over 70 mobile applications by Moroccan girls.

- Hardware
- Quality Relevant Content

- Women & girls, Other marginalized groups




Economic opportunity

2,700

3,044

2022 COHORT

U S A

	What they do	What they're scaling	Priority groups	Impact Area	Reach	
					Direct	Indirect
	E4 Youth engages young people who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, empowers them with digital tools to tell their community's stories on their own terms, and levels the playing field when it comes to economic opportunities in the digital world.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardware • Digital Literacy • Quality Relevant Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women & girls, Other marginalized groups 	Education	261	109
	Mobile Pathways leverages an innovative and evolving mobile platform to uplift immigrants seeking critical legal assistance and other forms of aid on their path to equity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Literacy • Quality Relevant Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other marginalized groups 	Economic opportunity	1,454,889	3,09,967
	Oasis Institute is expanding a new virtual platform to educate and assist aging adults as they take charge of their health and give back to their communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hardware • Digital Literacy • Quality Relevant Content 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aging populations 	Education	12,907	-

APPENDIX

RATIONALE FOR 2023 COUNTRY PRIORITIZATION

Assumptions

- Aspen selected locations based upon HP criteria + Shortlist provided by HP
- Countries selected will support reaching Digital Equity goal of 80M by 2030

HP Criteria

- Global representation (each region)
- HP legally allowed to ship & operate
- HP has some office/site presence
- AD has strong relationships and/or office presence

ASPEN Recommendations

Malaysia

Location Rationale

- Internet penetration of more than 62%, one of the highest in Southeast Asia.
- Males account for 59.4% of internet users vs 40.6% female.
- Vision 2020 was initiated in 1991 to increase computer usage skills among Malaysians. Most who grew up prior to 1991 have never been exposed to computer literacy education. Schools in many rural areas also did not have access to computers before this program was implemented.
- Lingering legacies of British colonial policies which created income and education disparities among racial groups.

Mexico

Location Rationale

- 39% of adults lack basic computer skills.
- 77% of Mexico's urban population are online, while only 48% of rural communities have access. Represents rapid increase from 2000, where internet use was approx 5.08%. Mexico considered 9th largest digital population in the world as of January 2022.
- Economic gap: 7-out of-10 people in highest income sector are internet users vs. only 2-out of-10 people in lowest income bracket.
- Among OECD countries, has one of the lowest rates of school enrollment among 15-19 year-olds (poverty drives them to find jobs rather than complete education)

South Africa

Location Rationale

- As of October 2022, 'internet censorship' laws passed to tackle the proliferation of child sexual abuse material and "other online harms." South Africa participates in regional efforts to combat cybercrime.
- Over 60% of Internet traffic generated on the African continent originates from South Africa. It is predicted that by 2027, 90% of the country will be active internet users.
- In the last ten years, internet traffic has a growth rate of 442 000%. South African government aims to provide free universal internet for low-income users by 2024.
- South Africa is the most unequal country in the world, [according to the World Bank](#), this inequality is also apparent in the digital divide.

2023 CURRICULUM

Module	Faculty	Topic	Type	Learning Outcomes
Community Centered Digital Equity	Chris Worman Co-Founder, Chief Partnership & Strategy Officer, Connect Humanity Fund	Global Digital Equity Landscape and Best Practices	Live Session (60 min)	Identify and adapt applicable best practices from digital equity programs
	Norma Fernandez CEO, EveryoneOn	Designing Community Centered Digital Equity Programs	Recorded Session (60 min)	Learn importance of co-designing accessible and inclusive programs directly with the communities the project serves
Marketing & Communications	Zainab Chaudary Principal, New Heights Communications	How Social Psychology Makes Us More Effective Communicators (Impact Storytelling & Strengthening Your Narrative)	Recorded Session (60 mins) 2 Discussion Groups (60 minutes each)	Tell their organization's story in a compelling manner and adapt it to diverse audiences. Identify communication strategies to support fundraising from diverse sources. Pitch to potential collaborators, funders, and constituents to expand your work
	Dawn Arteaga President, Wararay Communications	Marketing & Communications Strategies for Nonprofits	Live Session (60 mins)	Develop a clear and comprehensive marketing strategy aligned with their mission and goals (defining target audiences, setting objectives, and identifying key performance indicators (KPIs)). Leverage marketing for donor cultivation strategies/fundraising campaigns. Cultivate an audience to support their work; brand messaging and communicating your value

2023 CURRICULUM

Module	Faculty	Topic	Type	Learning Outcomes
Operations	Vin Menon, Independent Consultant	Introduction to Scaling Operations	Live Session (60 mins)	Understand the importance of nonprofit operations and how they contribute to the success of a nonprofit organization, including organizational management, financial management and planning, fundraising and development, technology management, program management, and human resources.
	Track 1 - Technology Management			
	Karen Graham Consultant, Trainer, and Coach, Karen Graham Consulting	Technology Management	Recorded Session (60 mins)2 Discussion Groups (60 minutes each)	Assess digital maturity within your organizationApply human-centered design to technology innovationUnderstanding technology management through user personas and customer journeysCreate a technology plan and explore ideas with ideation, prototyping, and stories
	Track 2 - Program & Project Management			
	Theresa Nyamupachitu, Independent Consultant	Program & Project Management	Recorded Session (60 mins)2 Discussion Groups (60 minutes each)	Apply project management principles to nonprofit work.Apply human centered design principles to new programs.

2023 CURRICULUM

Module	Faculty	Topic	Type	Learning Outcomes
Leadership	Bipasha Ray, Leadership Development Consultant	Effective Leadership Fundamentals	Live Session (60 mins)	Explore the foundational concepts and theories of leadership, including different leadership styles, traits, and the role of leadership in nonprofit organizations. Understand the distinction between leadership and management, and the importance of both functions in achieving organizational goals. Develop self-awareness, self-management, and emotional intelligence skills to effectively lead oneself and navigate interpersonal dynamics.
	Track 1 - Adaptive Leadership			
	Hazami Barmada Founder & Chairperson, Humanity Lab Foundation	Adaptive Leadership	60 min recorded + 2 DG	Adapt to change and manage ambiguity and uncertainty. Develop and implement strategies to build resilience in their organization, including fostering a culture of innovation, risk-taking, and learning.
	Track 2 - Developing People & Ideas			
	Natalie Jaynes, Executive Coach and Facilitator, Haven 4 Growth	Building and Maintaining Effective Teams (Developing People & Ideas)	60 min recorded + 2 DG	Build and lead effective teams, including managing and developing team members. Analyze problems, identify alternatives, involve appropriate staff, and make sound decisions in a timely manner.

2023 CURRICULUM

Module	Faculty	Topic	Type	Learning Outcomes
Impact	Win Brown, Global Expert, Monitoring & Evaluation, Win Brown Consulting	Introduction to Impact Evaluation	Live Session (60 mins)	Understand the Concept of Impact: Participants should develop a clear understanding of what impact means in the context of nonprofit work. They should learn to differentiate between outputs and outcomes and understand the significance of measuring and evaluating impact. Apply Results-Based Approaches: Participants should learn how to adopt a results-based approach to their work, aligning activities and strategies with desired outcomes. They should understand how to develop logic models or theories of change, set clear objectives, and establish performance indicators to monitor progress and assess impact.
	Carmen Louw, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist Manager, JET Education Services	Setting Goals and Evaluating Programs	Recorded Session (60 mins) 2 Discussion Groups (60 minutes each)	Goal-Setting: Participants will be able to effectively set measurable and meaningful goals for their nonprofit organization or program, aligning them with the mission and strategic objectives. Program Evaluation: Participants will learn what types of evaluation can be helpful, domains to be evaluated, and a high-level overview of evaluation methods. Data-Driven Decision Making: Participants will develop the ability to make informed decisions based on data and evidence. They will learn how to collect, analyze, and interpret impact data, and use it to inform strategic planning, program adjustments, and resource allocation.

APPENDIX

ORGANIZATION REACH: ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Accelerator Contribution to Org Reach in 2023 - Growth Calculations

	Direct Participants	Indirect Participants	Total Growth	Description
Cohort 1	782,720	1,926,105	2,708,825	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive growth in participant reach for Oct 2022-Sept 2023 relative to baseline reach in 2021.
Cohort 2	201,048	3,484,610	3,685,658	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positive growth in participant reach (May-Sept 2023) relative to 5/12 of baseline reach in 2022. (5 months compared to 12-month reach)
Total	983,768	5,410,715	6,394,484	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total growth in reach across both cohorts.

APPENDIX

ORGANIZATION REACH: ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Estimated Growth in Participant Reach in 2023 by Priority Group

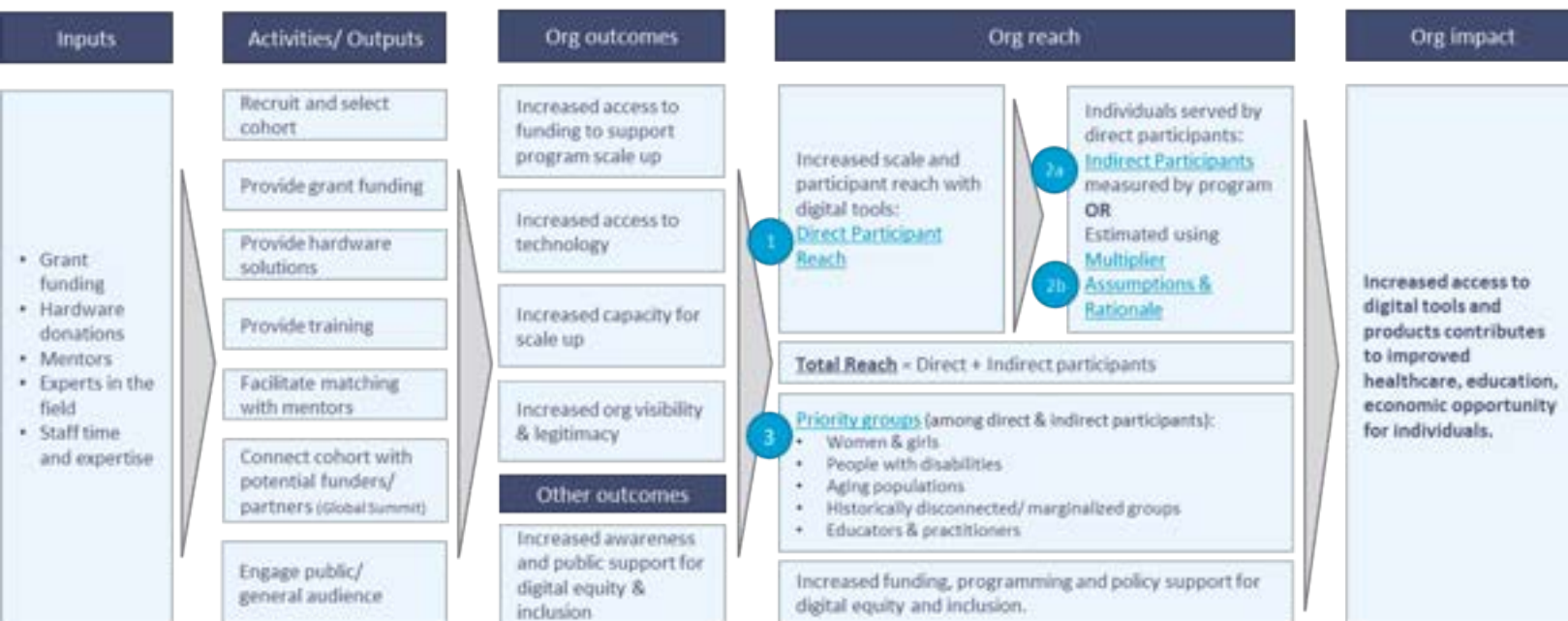
Priority Group	Cohort 1	Cohort 2
Programs intentionally serving women & girls	19,394	21,210
Individuals with disabilities	12,028	11,908
Aging populations	6,894	11,846
Educators	635	138,771
Healthcare practitioners	382	-
Other historically disconnected/ marginalized groups	2,669,491	3,501,923
Total:	2,708,825	3,685,658

APPENDIX

M&E FRAMEWORK AND PRINCIPLES

The Digital Equity Accelerator team has developed an M&E framework that is depicted in the figure below. The Accelerator aims to report on a combination of quantitative and qualitative data that spans across the M&E Framework to better understand the Accelerator's outcomes and impact and the mechanisms of change that are contributing to this impact.

Three quantitative indicators are the focus for reporting from non-profits in addition to qualitative insights and impact stories.



In addition to the M&E framework that guides the data collection approach, the program has identified a set of principles to guide the monitoring and evaluation efforts. The Accelerator aims to ensure ongoing measurement, evaluation and learning is a core part of the Digital Equity Accelerator's strategy and program lifecycle. The principles that will guide the measurement and evaluation include:

- Conducting data collection & evaluation to learn and shape program practices.
- Prioritize quantitative & qualitative data collection that will enhance learning, decision-making, and insights for the global community.
- A participatory approach is utilized to align with nonprofits on the metrics that meaningfully represent progress for their program and are feasible to report on based on available resources.
- Centering equity in evaluation by collaborating with nonprofits in designing questions, and considering unintended bias, undue burden, and undue influence when collecting data.
- Commitment to using the data collected and sharing findings with participating nonprofits, other partners, and a broad audience so that others can learn from the programmatic experience.

APPENDIX

2023 M&E PLAN

The table below summarizes the timeline and plan for data collection for the 2023 program year. This includes conducting a one-year follow-up survey among Cohort 1 participants in September, as well as continued data collection from Cohort 2 via monthly satisfaction surveys, as well as a baseline and end of program M&E survey. The surveys will be complemented with exit interviews for Cohort 2 participants. Feedback surveys are administered to all Accelerator program faculty, including Mentors, Technical Experts and instructors.

Data Collection Tool	Administration timeline	Reporting period
Cohort 1 Follow-up M&E Survey	Sept 1– Oct 15, 2023	Oct 1, 2022 – Sept 30, 2023
Cohort 2 Intake M&E reporting (baseline)	Jun 23- Jul 7, 2023	Jan 1, 2022 – Dec 31, 2022
Cohort 2 Monthly satisfaction survey	First week of each month	Feedback on module from prior month
Cohort 2 End of Program M&E Reporting	Sept 15 – Oct 15, 2023	May 1, 2023 – Sept 30, 2023
Cohort 2 Follow-up M&E Survey	Sept 1 – Oct 15, 2024	Oct 1, 2023 – Sept 30, 2024
Faculty feedback surveys	First week of each month	Prior month feedback for those engaged for one month, or end of program feedback

2023 M&E FRAMEWORK

Domain	Quantitative indicators	Qualitative indicators	Data collection tools	Key learning questions
Activities & Outputs	# of cohort member participants Total amount of funds distributed (\$) Total value of hardware solutions # of courses delivered % reporting satisfaction with program curriculum # of Mentor and Technical Expert sessions # of external participants attending events (funders, partners)	Feedback on program curriculum Feedback from faculty (Mentors, Tech Experts, instructors) Feedback from Demo Day participants	Program data and reporting Monthly cohort satisfaction survey Faculty satisfaction survey Demo Day participant survey	What curriculum elements provide particularly relevant and useful tools and resources in support of increased scale and impact?
Org outcomes	% of orgs reporting increased access to funding as a result of their participation in the Accelerator program % of orgs reporting increased capacity for scale following their participation % of Global Summit participants reporting high levels of confidence in cohort orgs' ability to scale	Cohort reporting on value of curriculum, funding, and technology and what they have been able to accomplish as a result of these inputs	End of program M&E survey Program exit interviews 1 year follow-up M&E survey Demo Day participant survey	How does the Accelerator contribute to improvements in programs and/or organization?
Org Reach	# of direct participants reached by the organization (or specific program(s) within the org) # of indirect participants reached # of participants within priority groups	Cohort reporting on how their participation has contributed to expanded reach, enhanced or more equitable services	End of program M&E survey Program exit interviews 1 year follow-up M&E survey	How does the Accelerator contribute to increased reach or scale? How does the Accelerator contribute to enhanced or more equitable services?
Org Impact	Quantitative indicators of participant outcomes and impact on healthcare, education, or economic opportunity defined by each program	Impact stories of participant outcomes and impact on healthcare, education or economic opportunity	End of program M&E survey Program exit interviews 1 year follow-up M&E survey	How does the accelerator contribute to bridging the digital divide through access to hardware, connectivity, digital literacy or quality, relevant content? How does the accelerator contribute to outcomes and impact for direct and indirect participants, including better access to education, jobs or healthcare for underserved communities?