

Activity Report 2020

GiveInternet.Org



Our Mission

GiveInternet is a US-based nonprofit on a mission to help **disadvantaged high school students** realize their full potential by giving them **Internet access**.

Why

We believe that today it is virtually impossible to succeed without Internet access. By providing **connectivity**, we empower individuals to improve the **quality of their lives** and their communities and drive **socioeconomic growth**.

How

GiveInternet.org is a nonprofit platform that allows anyone to **sponsor** monthly **Internet** fees and **laptops** for disadvantaged high school students living in refugee camps, rural areas and poor households. We equip our students with an Internet connection, laptops, educational resources, training and mentorship.



The Problem

Nearly 4 billion people – mostly women and poor, rural communities – are excluded from today's online revolution. **They are missing out on academic and economic opportunities, global public debates, democratic empowerment, global knowledge, social and cultural exchange.**

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Today we live in a knowledge economy where Internet use has become a key factor in determining whether people succeed. The economic and social development of nations depends on how well they acquire, transmit and apply the available information. But the existing disparities in Internet penetration create an atmosphere of unequal competition.

The digital divide reflects and widens socioeconomic gaps. People from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and minority groups are usually less likely to have Internet access or be able to use the web efficiently.

When we fail to connect these populations, we widen the existing inequalities and fail to benefit from their collective knowledge, talent and contributions to economic prosperity. And market forces alone will not diminish these disparities as competitive service providers do not see rural, low-income markets as commercially viable. Even when the coverage area expands, due to the community's inability to pay Internet fees, the unavailability of devices, lack of customer awareness and digital illiteracy, the natural ecosystem growth cycle is not stimulated and Internet access does not expand. 35% of the world's population – 2.5 billion people – live in the mobile data coverage area but are still offline due to barriers like lack of affordability, readiness and relevance. Therefore, initiatives that facilitate connectivity are needed. Which brings us to our mission.

The Solution

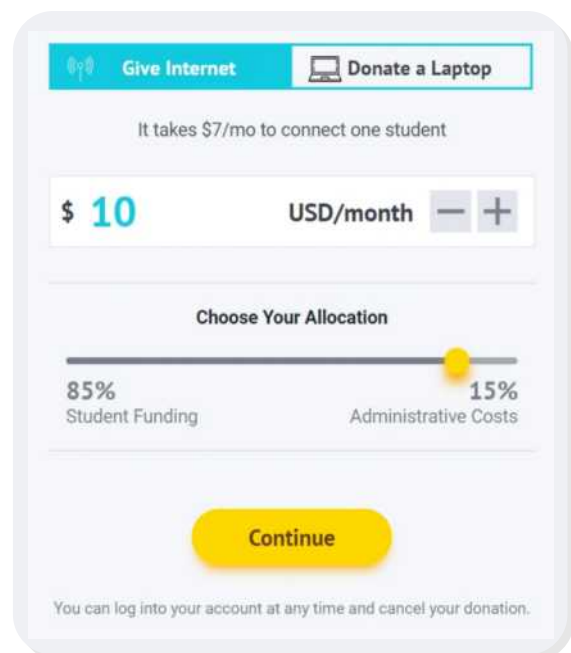
GiveInternet.org is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered in the State of New Jersey. We created a nonprofit platform where anyone can sponsor Internet fees and laptops for high school students in need.

Our platform ensures that supporting connectivity through online recurring donations is simple and transparent. It takes a minimum of \$1 and a few clicks to register as a donor. Donors receive monthly transparency reports with detailed costs, success stories and more. Each project, donor, partner, cost and the story of each student is documented on the website.

The funds raised on our platform are directed to our nonprofit partners on the ground who equip underprivileged high school students with Internet access, laptops, a wide range of educational resources from our EdTech partners, and training. Our partners also constantly mentor our students online on how to navigate the Web safely and efficiently.

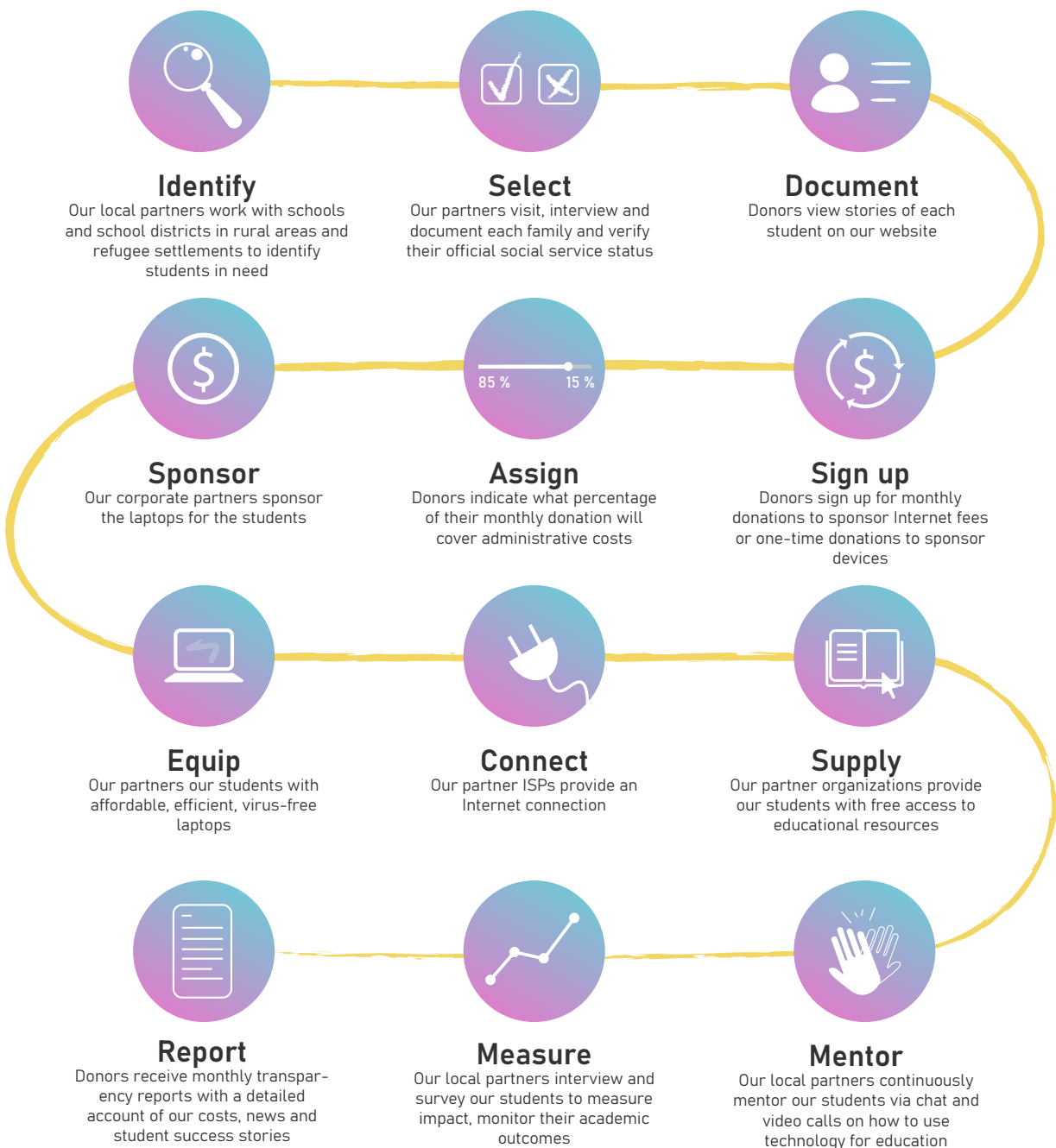
Our current partner is Charte.ge, a Georgian nonprofit organization and a nonprofit platform built by our co-founders.

It takes a minimum of \$1 and a few clicks to register as a donor.



The screenshot displays the 'Give Internet' donation interface. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Give Internet' (selected) and 'Donate a Laptop'. Below the tabs, a message states 'It takes \$7/mo to connect one student'. The donation amount is set to '\$ 10' USD/month, with minus and plus buttons for adjustment. A 'Choose Your Allocation' section features a slider bar showing 85% for 'Student Funding' and 15% for 'Administrative Costs'. A yellow 'Continue' button is located at the bottom. A footer note reads: 'You can log into your account at any time and cancel your donation.'

How does the platform work?





Our results^{*}

1000+

high school students online;

2000+

monthly donors on the platform;



85% Millennials

\$211,000+

raised through the platform;

\$200,000+

raised thanks to organizations and corporations partnering with Charite.ge;

20+

training sessions in media literacy, financial literacy and online education;

10+

EdTech partners.



Khan Academy



Oppia

^{*}The joint results of GiveInternet.org and Charite.ge



Why the Internet?

It is almost impossible to enumerate all the applications of the Internet. It has become the communication fabric of our lives, for work, for education, for information, for public services, and for politics. It allows us to teach basic first aid, warn disease outbreak, report security threats, use online maps, and find jobs.

It has proven to be very difficult to measure the impact of the Internet on individuals and entire communities. Consider, for example, how difficult it would be to capture the increased efficiency realized by being able to check your bank account balance online (private benefits) and the increased productivity for those that surround you after you are able to send information online (social benefits). But researchers are still trying to measure some of the private and public returns on Internet access. These benefits are interlinked and cross-fertilizing.

Private benefits

Education

Study after study has demonstrated a positive association between students' Internet self-efficacy and their academic performance. Internet use can predict both grade point averages and scores on standardized tests.

Employability & skills

Internet access and computers, along with education, enhance skills that are substantially rewarded in the labor market. Studies also suggest that computers enhance cognitive skills.

Communication & Social Capital

The Internet facilitates communication with geographically distant family and friends, which is especially vital for refugees, and it allows individuals to accumulate social capital, which leads to enhanced efficiency.

Entertainment & Artistic Expression

The Internet provides access to all forms of digitized cultural or artistic products and enables us to share ideas, designs, products and creations.

Health & Nutrition

The Internet can also empower health care decision-making. Several studies suggested that the Internet as a health, nutrition and fitness information source was especially popular among students.

Increased Productivity & Profits

Besides increased financial gains and entrepreneurial productivity, Internet use has been linked with consumer choice efficiency and labor market search efficiency.

Social benefits

Economic Growth, Increased Productivity & Efficiency

Numerous studies have suggested a causal relationship between cellular service expansion and national economic growth. Telecommunications investments are subject to diminishing returns, which suggests that developing countries are likely to benefit the most.

Social equality & Equity

The Internet creates new opportunities in education, skill and employability enhancement and gender empowerment.

Social Cohesion & Shared Values

Internet and education access have been associated with more tolerance, knowledge sharing, cultural integration and social cohesion, more concern about the environment, charitable giving, and reductions in criminal activity.





Our Impact

To gain initial insight into the impact of our project on our students, we are conducting preliminary quantitative and qualitative studies. We have organized semi-structured in-depth interviews with up to two dozen students to lay out the possible changes in their lives and we have collected answers to our survey on academic outcomes, aspirations and online behavior patterns from up to 90% of our students.*

Preliminary survey



In-depth interviews

Longitudinal quantitative study



* We have a very good response rate since the only condition the students need to satisfy when they receive a laptop from us is to participate in our studies.

Our findings: in-depth interviews

- Most students find new interests online;
- The laptop and the Internet connection prove vital for university entrance exam preparations, school homework and group projects for almost all students;
- A large majority finds communicating and accumulating social capital easier;
- More than half of our students advance their proficiency in the English language;
- The Internet connection proves vital in the process of obtaining information about study and career opportunities;
- In most cases, the members of the family of the student also use the laptop and the Internet to look for information, follow the news, do homework, etc., which means that our impact goes beyond the 450+ high school students.



Our findings: preliminary survey

School homework, exam preparation, watching films and communication seem to be the most frequent activities online;

42%

of our students claimed to use the Internet to learn a foreign language;

53%

of our students claimed to have taken up an online course;

80%

reported that they now dedicate more time to education and personal growth;

83%

reported that they have less difficulty in understanding school subjects;

81%

of students reported that they are now able to do homework more efficiently;

74%

of our students reported that they now have more confidence in their ability to achieve success at school.

Our impact - the longitudinal study

To gain a deeper insight into the magnitude of the impact of our project on the lives of our students, we have initiated a longitudinal quantitative study. The results are yet to be determined and analyzed. For this study, we:

a) Monitor student outcomes by collaborating with their schools:

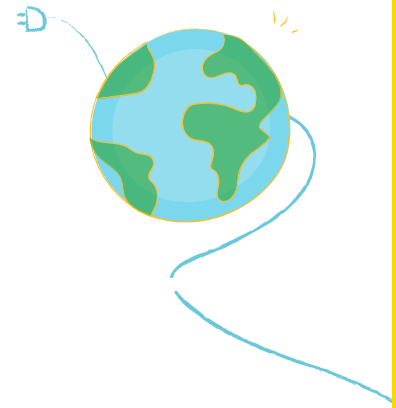
- Tertiary enrollment rates;
- Changes in the average school grades in subjects of interest (math, history, Georgian language and literature, geography, physics, chemistry, biology);

b) Survey the students. Each student fills out a questionnaire several times: once before receiving a laptop and every 10-12 months after that. The questionnaire contains Likert-scale questions which were devised based on empirically-tested indices (as listed below.) By determining how students score in different indices before and after receiving a computer, we will look for statistically significant changes in a range of indicators through the dependent t-test for paired samples in SPSS.

The indicators measured and monitored through the study are as follows:

- Average changes in the **Academic Self-Perception index** (derived from School Attitudes Assessment Survey (McCoach, 2002);





- Average changes in the **Computer literacy index** (derived from Self-efficacy in Technology and Science (SETS) and the Computer literacy questionnaire (Son, 2011));
- Average changes in the **Internet accessibility index** (derived from the Internet accessibility score (Zilka, 2014));
- Average changes in the **self-esteem** scale (derived from Rosenberg's Self-Esteem Scale);
- Average changes in the **general and mental well-being** index (derived from The Short Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (SWEM-WBS) and the subjective well-being scale (ONS)).





Our Team

The GiveInternet.org team comes from Georgia, Europe. In 2015 We created Educare Georgia - an educational nonprofit organization on a mission to provide free access to world-class education to anyone in Georgia.

With the aim of providing Georgian students with free world-class supplementary educational content in the local language, we partnered with EdTech platforms like Khan Academy (here's Sal Khan, its founder, on our organization: <http://bit.ly/2S0Debx>) and Code.org. We almost fully localized Khan Academy STEM subjects and the Georgian platform has been used by 50% of the Georgian population. **But we realized that the students who needed the resources the most did not have Internet access.** We decided to change that.

We established Charte.ge in 2017 - a local analogue to GiveInternet.org. Our aim was to make it easy and transparent for individuals to sponsor Internet access for those in need. We piloted in settlements for Internally Displaced Persons in Georgia (the result of the Russian-Georgian War in 2008) and today we cover over a dozen locations, mostly IDP settlements, villages by the line of Russian occupation and rural areas.

In 2018, we created the GiveInternet.org platform. In 2020 we incorporated a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in the State of New Jersey. We also started working on recreating the GiveInternet.org platform to appeal to US donors. In 2021, we plan to start attracting international donations, add other local partners on the platform and allow our donors to sponsor Internet access for disadvantaged high school students in need in multiple countries.

Coming from a post-Soviet developing country, we have witnessed first-hand the **transformational power of the Internet in improving the quality of life** of individuals and communities, in reshaping belief systems, levels of education and productivity. Because we see the **Internet as a social equalizer** and a very cost-effective means of accessing global knowledge, we aim to expand Internet access to those in need.



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