2021 Activity Report

Give Internet

Mission

Our mission is to enable over 1 billion underprivileged students to realize their full potential by providing them access to the most transformative opportunities - an Internet connection, a laptop and basic training.

Why

We believe that today Internet access is a human right. It determines our chances of success to a greater degree every day. However, more than 40% of the world's population is offline, mostly due to a lack of affordability.

How

At GiveInternet.org, you can sponsor monthly Internet fees and laptops for as little as $1 for students living in the most underserved communities in developing countries. Each month, you'll receive updates on how your money was spent and how the lives of the students are changing.

CHUWI

The Problem

Today, **40% of the world's population is offline**. Only 17% lives in an area without Internet coverage, making **lack of affordability the main barrier** to access.

Lack of access to knowledge causes low academic and professional outcomes, poor health, shorter lifespan, unemployment, and gender inequality. Since women and poor, rural communities are predominantly excluded from today's online revolution, **the digital divide reflects and widens socioeconomic gaps.** They are missing out on academic and economic opportunities, global public debates, democratic empowerment, global knowledge, social and cultural exchange.

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.

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. Therefore, initiatives that facilitate connectivity are needed. Which brings us to our mission.

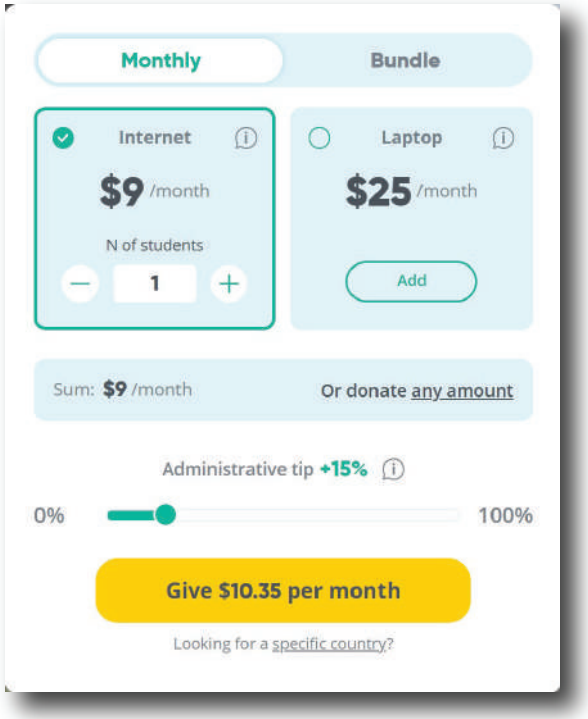
The Solution

GiveInternet.org is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. We created a **nonprofit platform where anyone can sponsor Internet fees and laptops** for 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 and laptops. Our partners also constantly **mentor our students** online on how to navigate the Web safely and efficiently.

Currently we operate in **Uganda, Bangladesh and Georgia**, with the goal of adding more countries and project to our platform.



How does the platform work?

Donors choose a project to sponsor or make it up to us to allocate funds

Donors sign up for monthly or one-time donations and sponsor Internet and/computer costs

Donors decide if they want to also sponsor our administrative expenses

Our partners provide all available financial documentation

Our partners mentor our students on how to take advantage of the Internet

Our partners equip their students with laptops and Internet access

We send out transparency reports and publish all documentation and costs online

We publish the story of every student and every project

We measure and publish the impact of our project quantitative analysis and in-depth interviews

Results

2021

583
Students

801
New donors

$157,900
Private donations

$83,292
Corporate donations

Total

1640
Students

3769
New donors

$352,011
Private donations

$274,292
Corporate donations

*Joint results of GiveInternet.org and local partner Charte.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

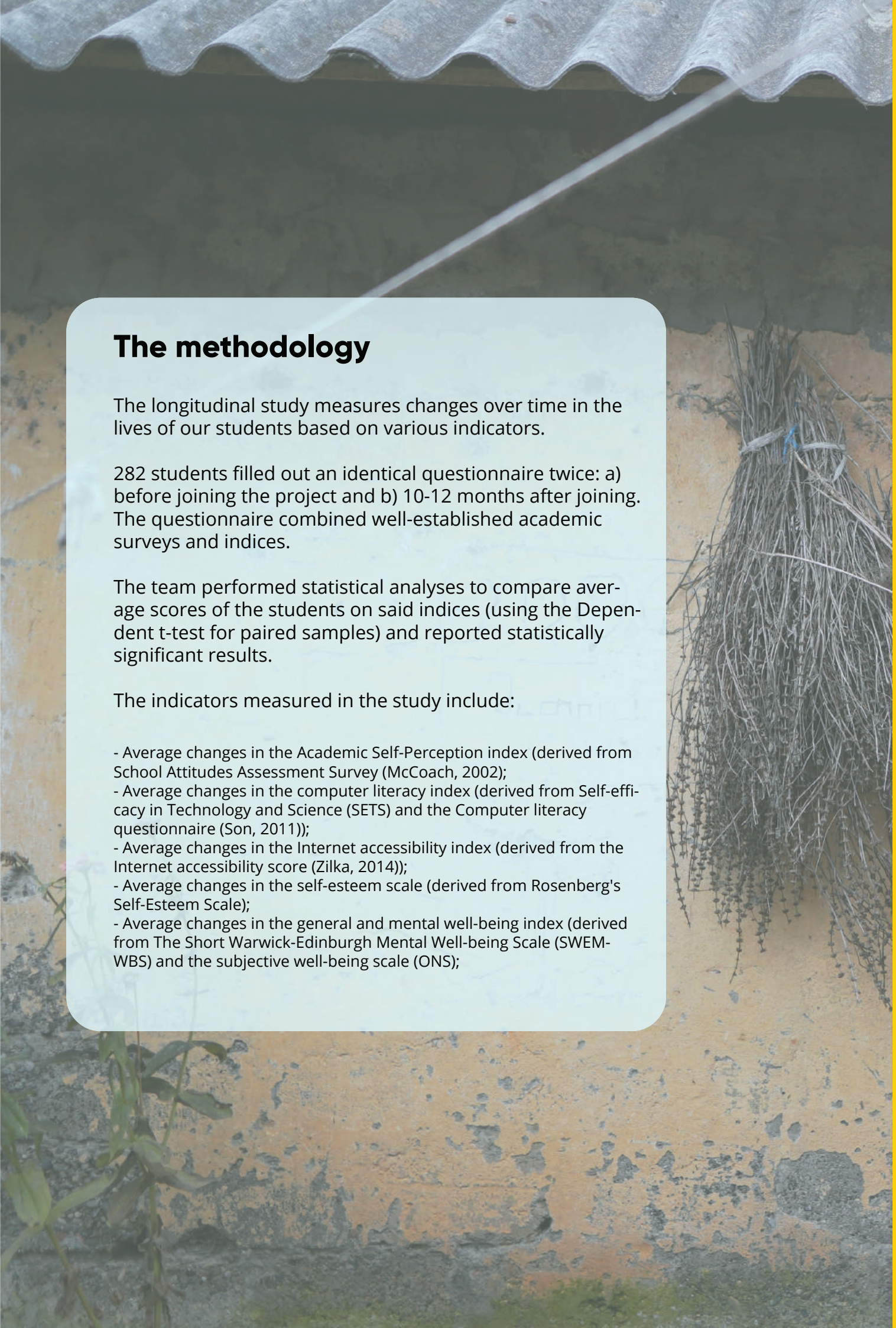
Internet and education access have been associated with more tolerance, knowledge sharing, cultural integration and social cohesion, more concern about the environment, charitable giving, and reductions in criminal activity.

Project Impact

We are continously measuring the imact of our project on our students. Initially starting with surveys and in-depth interviews to lay out the possible areas of impact, we have been conducting longitudinal studies to measure changes one year at a time.

Surveys + **In-dept interviews**

Longitudinal study



The methodology

The longitudinal study measures changes over time in the lives of our students based on various indicators.

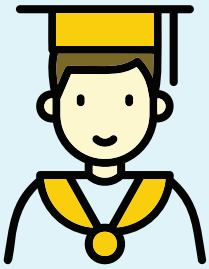
282 students filled out an identical questionnaire twice: a) before joining the project and b) 10-12 months after joining. The questionnaire combined well-established academic surveys and indices.

The team performed statistical analyses to compare average scores of the students on said indices (using the Dependent t-test for paired samples) and reported statistically significant results.

The indicators measured in the study include:

- 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 (SWEMWBS) and the subjective well-being scale (ONS);

What improves
1 year after a student is brought online?



Academic outcomes

Internet and self-education accessibility

Computer literacy

Mental well-being

Academic outcomes

29% of students have a higher average school grade one year after receiving computers and Internet access

How did the average score change in each subject?

Subject	Before	1 year later
Georgian	7.97	8.27
Math	7.29	7.59
History	7.77	8.05
Geography	7.93	8.10
Chemistry	7.47	7.72
Physics	7.34	7.59
Biology	7.76	7.93

*The table aggregates data from 282 students. For a random selection, we also requested grades from schools for verification.

Computer literacy and skills

55%

Receive a higher score on the the computer literacy index (Self-efficacy in Technology and Science) and the Computer literacy questionnaire (Son, 2011)

31%

Deem it easier to use a computer

33%

Deem it easier to find ansers to their questions online.

How do the students enhance their computer skills in the first year?

Skill	Before	1 year later
Knows how to install software	54%	78%
Knows how to create presentation slides	71%	84%
Knows how to send files via email	75%	84%
Uses email	52%	78%

The 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.

We wanted to provide Georgian students with free world-class supplementary educational content in the local language, so we partnered with EdTech platforms like Khan Academy (here's Sal Khan, its founder, on our organization: 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 version of 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. By the end of 2021, we launched a new Giveinternet.org platform and 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.

George Jibladze
Board member, CEO

Rebecca Weicht
Board member

Maia Surmava
Board member

Rusudan Djakeli
Co-founder, CMO

Toka Gelashvili
Co-founder, CTO

Shalva Bukia
Co-founder, product designer

Maia Mtchedlishvili
Web developer

Khatia Apkhaidze
UI designer

Irma Gachechiladze
Photographer, content creator

Mari Gelashvili
Operations on the ground

Razmik Badalyan
Student education

Mariam Mtchedlishvili
Operations on the ground