



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Elimu-Soko and the Gates Foundation Partner to Scale Cost-Effective Teacher Training Innovations Across Africa**

**Accra, October 29, 2025** – Elimu-Soko, an African organization dedicated to strengthening public education systems through government-led innovation, today announced a new collaboration with the Gates Foundation to launch a facility that will identify, pilot, and scale cost-effective, evidence-based solutions for teacher training within public education systems.

This partnership is built on a shared vision: to translate what is already known about effective teacher professional development into sustainable, government-owned programs that improve learning outcomes at scale. Drawing on the unparalleled evidence base on what works in teacher development through efforts like the [Science of Teaching](#)—and Elimu-Soko’s expertise in building deep partnerships with African governments—this facility will serve as a bridge between proven innovations and the public systems that can sustain them.

#### **A Turning Point for African Education**

The global education funding landscape is undergoing a seismic shift. With major donors reducing billions in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to education, the era of externally-funded programs is rapidly ending. Governments now represent the only sustainable source of education financing. Yet, most governments face tightening budgets and limited capacity to test and adopt new solutions.

“This is a wake-up call for how education reform happens,” said Devang Vussonji, Founder and Executive Director of Elimu-Soko. “We cannot rely on perpetual donor projects that vanish once funding ends. The only way forward is to embed cost-effective, evidence-based innovations directly into government systems—so they endure and deliver results long after external support fades.”

#### **Why Teacher Training**

Across Africa, between 60–80% of national education budgets are devoted to teachers. Strengthening teaching quality is the single most effective way to raise learning outcomes, especially in foundational literacy and numeracy. Governments already recognize this: in Elimu-Soko’s engagements across the continent, teacher training consistently emerges as the top policy priority.

This new facility will channel that demand into action—deploying strategic investments across four to five innovation windows that target practical, scalable improvements in teacher training and classroom practice. Each investment will operate within real fiscal constraints, ensuring affordability for public systems.

The approach builds on Elimu-Soko's proven methodology in Zanzibar and Rwanda, where government-led pilots have achieved significant gains in literacy and numeracy while remaining financially sustainable.

### **Next Steps: A Pan-African Facility for Impact**

The facility will support a portfolio of teacher-training innovations tailored to diverse African contexts:

- **Urban and connected schools**, where digital tools and adaptive learning can accelerate change.
- **Rural and low-connectivity environments**, where low-tech, practice-based training models can thrive.
- **Fragile and post-conflict settings**, where rebuilding teacher capacity is the foundation for recovery.
- **Multilingual and multicultural systems**, where teacher support must adapt to linguistic diversity.

Each innovation will be rigorously tested, co-designed with governments, and evaluated for measurable improvements in foundational learning outcomes and cost-effectiveness.

### **A Call to Innovators, Governments, and Funders**

Elimu-Soko is inviting innovators whose teacher-training solutions have demonstrated measurable impact—and can operate within government budget envelopes—to engage with the team ahead of the first call for proposals.

Governments interested in joining this collaboration are encouraged to reach out, particularly from Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Mozambique, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia, and South Africa, where Elimu-Soko's work is expanding.

Funders and partners are also invited to collaborate. Elimu-Soko is investing in the facility's core infrastructure and government engagement processes, creating a platform that will yield dozens of high-potential funding opportunities across Africa. Co-investment in specific countries or innovation windows is welcome.

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### **About Elimu-Soko**

Elimu-Soko is an African non-profit organization that builds resilient education systems by helping governments identify, pilot, and integrate proven innovations within public schools. Working at the intersection of government, philanthropy, and social enterprise, Elimu-Soko ensures that education innovations are designed for affordability, effectiveness, and sustainability.

### **About the Gates Foundation**

The Gates Foundation works to ensure all children and young people have the opportunity to reach their full potential through education. The foundation supports research and innovation that strengthen public systems, improve teaching quality, and accelerate progress toward foundational literacy and numeracy for all learners.

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