🇿🇦 **South Africa**

Affordable, Uncapped Wi-Fi at National Scale

Project Isizwe

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powerlynx

About project

Project Isizwe is a non-profit organisation that partners with funders and Internet Service Providers to provide equitable internet access to underserved schools and communities.

They **replaced Meta's retired Express Wi-Fi with Powerlynx** to keep its mission alive: "equitable, uncapped internet in every classroom and community". Powerlynx now orchestrates every hotspot, voucher, advert, and analytics, letting the Isizwe team run a country-wide network from one dashboard.

Connected users

1	Free / affordable hotspots deployed	**1002 hotspot sites** in 8 provinces
2	Wi-Fi for education	**115 schools** connected (**70 000+** learners & teachers)
3	Monthly active online users	**300 000+** active users monthly
4	Connected community users	**600 000+** users from from **60** underserved communities

Equipment used

Project Isizwe's hardware setup is flexible yet standardised, centred on MikroTik and Cudy / Cambium APs.

MIKROTIK

cudy

Cambium™ Networks

powerlynx

1. **Hyper-diverse footprint** – schools, townships, mines, malls, wind- & solar-farms need different rules and sponsors.
2. **Low-income users** – data must be free or cheaper than R5/day.
3. **Tiny operations team** – automation, self-service onboarding and zero-touch updates are essential.
4. **Hybrid funding** – mix of CSR sponsors, advertising and voucher sales.

Powerlynx solution highlights

01 Cloud-Hosted Hotspot OSS/BSS
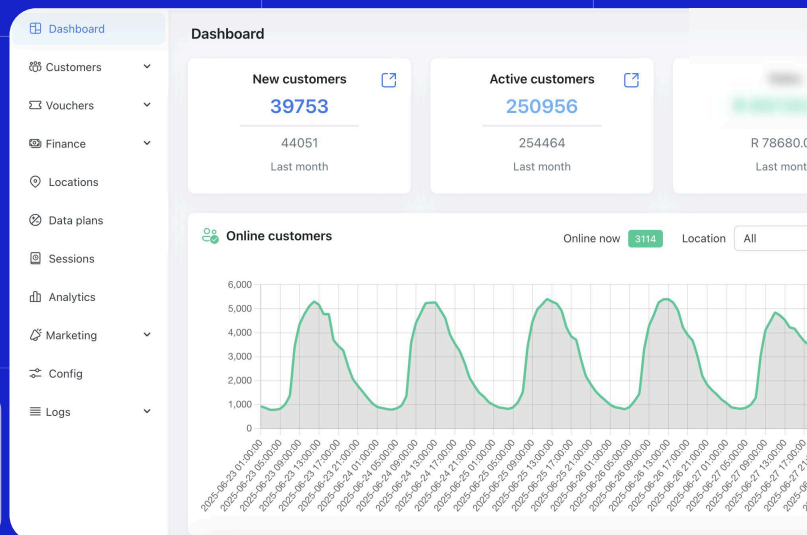no on-prem servers; multi-vendor support

02 Scalability
The system is highly scalable and supports hundreds of thousands of online users.

03 No-Code Captive Portal Editor

04 Integrated Payment Gateways

05 Flexible Data Plan Configuration

Speed Price Availability # of devices Limits: time / data/ usage Validity

06 Voucher Generation
Easy generation and distribution of Wi-Fi vouchers.

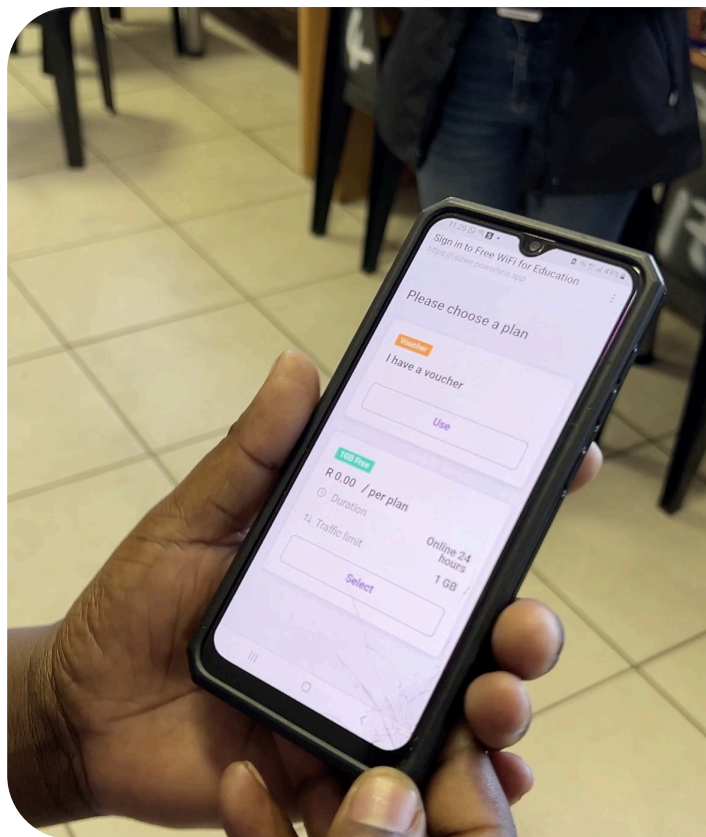**07 Wi-Fi Advertising**
Image or video ads during Wi-Fi login to show sponsored ads or promote internal offers.

08 Multi-Location Management

09 Notifications, Status Page
User notification about data usage, access expiry, or payment status.

Dashboard

New customers	Active customers
39753	250956
44051	254464
Last month	Last month

R 78680.0
Last mont

Online customers — Online now 3114 — Location All

powerlynx.app

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Sector-by-Sector Impact

Wi-Fi in Support of Education

- **115 public schools** now enjoy uncapped classroom Wi-Fi; daily caps apply only off-campus.

- **70 000 learners & teachers connected** in 2024.

- Captive portal shows school logo, OTP login and 1 GB/day plan

- Integration with Walebone DNS resolver to filter and block malicious websites and sensitive content.

Vision roadmap: connect 16 000 unserved SA schools by 2030.

Uncapped R5 Wi-Fi

- R5/day (≈ US $0.25) for unlimited data.
- Community resellers earn margin on voucher sales; Powerlynx auto-creates users & enforces plan limits.
- Deployed in Lamontville, Mpophomeni, and Dunoon
- Covers over **18,000 homes**.
- 130+ high-range APs and 320 home extenders installed
- Over **3,000 unique users**, with **1,000+ monthly paying customers.**

Sector-by-Sector Impact

Wi-Fi for Economic Growth

- Free guest Wi-Fi in **7 township malls** reaches **30 000 shoppers/month**, 500 MB free per user.

- Splash pages with banners and video ad promos from sponsors.

ID	Name	Start date	End date
1	Bridge City	2024-03-26	2025-08-3
2	Diepsloot	2024-03-28	2025-02-2
3	Heidelberg	2024-03-28	2025-02-2
5	Eyethu	2024-03-28	2025-02-2
6	Murchison	2024-03-28	2025-02-2
7	Eyethu WeCare Food Security	2025-03-27	2025-05-0
8	Diepsloot WeCare Sporting Chance	2025-04-08	2025-05-0
9	Motherwell WeCare Sporting Chance	2025-04-08	2025-05-0
10	Sontonga WeCare Sporting Chance	2025-04-08	2025-05-0

Free WiFi for mining and solar and wind farm communities

Glencore Coal

- Deployed 32 free WiFi hotspots across 28 physical site locations
- 34,000 monthly active users connect to the internet

Glencore Ferroalloys

- 25 free WiFi hotspots with 5000+ monthly active users

Solar farm communities enabled by Acciona

- 10 sites with 6000+ monthly active users