

# Making teacher education relevant for 21st century Africa



## 'Container classroom' video summary

The film shows how a school in Tembisa, a few kilometres outside Johannesburg, uses solar energy to provide access to technology for learning for their students, and at the same time, provide electricity for the whole school.

Tembisa is a township where black South Africans were forcibly re-patriated during the apartheid regime. Despite efforts since 1994, to bring more equality into the education system in South Africa, the schools in Tembisa have few resources and many do not have access to electricity. At Tlamatlama primary school however, children are part of an exciting new project. In the school playground there is an old ship container. It has been converted into a solar powered classroom which contains tablet computers. The classroom is designed by AMBIT technologies and is called 'EDI' – Education Designed Intelligently.

Bongi Mthembu works for AMBIT Social Development but she grew up in Tembisa and knows the area and the challenges that teachers face, very well; she is pleased to be able to contribute to improving her own community.

The container is 'high tech' – yet is remarkably simple. It was delivered to the school on a truck and was up-and-running as soon as the solar panels had been installed. The whole process took about half-an-hour. Inside the container, there is a large screen at one end. There is a rectangular table down the centre with tablet computers on each side. Bongi explains that instead of having to carry a backpack of different books, all the books are available on the tablet computers. The curriculum is just the same; the way it is delivered is different. The teacher can communicate with all the students and they can work together. The container also supplies electricity to the rest of the school.

Ten children can work in the container at a time, with a teacher. The film shows them taking part in a mental maths game: sums come up on the screen and they click the correct answer. As soon as they are right, a new sum appears. The winner is the first one to do all the sums. The children are clearly really enjoying themselves! The teacher then demonstrates an activity on the large screen before the children work through it in pairs on their tablet computers.

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