

Case Study

Title: Empowering a New Generation: How Zannya Africa Foundation Transformed One Girl's Future in Nairobi

Date: July 31, 2025

Organization: Zannya Africa Foundation

Background

In many underserved neighborhoods of Nairobi, youth face systemic barriers to education and employment. Girls, in particular, are often excluded from tech opportunities due to cultural expectations, limited access, or early responsibilities at home.

Meet Mercy: A 17-Year-Old With a Dream

Mercy lives in Kibera, Nairobi's largest informal settlement. Despite excelling in school, she had never touched a computer until 2025. She dreamed of becoming an engineer but lacked exposure, mentorship, and basic digital access.

Zannya's Intervention

In February 2025, Mercy enrolled in the Zannya Africa Foundation's Digital Literacy Bootcamp, part of the pre-launch training for our upcoming Innovation Hub in Nairobi.

Program features Mercy accessed:

6-week hands-on training in digital skills (coding, design, digital marketing)

Mentorship sessions with female tech professionals

Access to internet, laptops, and learning materials

Participation in a hackathon for local community solutions

Results


Within two months, Mercy:

Built a simple mobile app to help her community report water shortages

Presented her idea at a youth tech forum, where she received mentorship offers

Was selected for a government scholarship to study ICT at Kenyatta University

Started a local “Girls Code” club in her school with 18 members

 Quote

> “Before Zannya, I thought coding was only for rich kids. Now I teach others like me.”

— Mercy A., Program Graduate

 Impact Summary

Area	Before Program	After Program
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Computer Skills	None	Built mobile app prototype
School Engagement	Quiet, shy	Club founder, speaker
Career Aspirations	Unclear	Now pursuing ICT at university
Community Involvement	Passive	Actively teaching 18 peers

Key Takeaways

Access + mentorship = transformation

Empowering one youth creates ripple effects in the entire community

Girls in underserved areas thrive when given the right support and opportunity

Conclusion

Mercy's story is one of many. Zannya Africa Foundation is proving that with the right tools and support, youth from even the most marginalized communities can innovate, lead, and change their world.

