Kigali Christian Schools (KCS) Students' Computer Laboratories

September 2024

Organisation	Youth For Christ/Rwanda
Address:	Rwanda, Kigali City, Gasabo District.
Contact Persons:	1. MUGARURA Jean Baptiste, National Director, YFC,Rwanda, phone: +250788304333 Email: mugarura65@yahoo.com 2. MUTABAZI Geoffrey, KCS School Superintendent, Phone: +250788558973email: geoffreyrobex@gmail.com

Kigali Christian School
Youth For Christ/Rwanda

Introduction

Currently, digital technologies are transforming the world economy. The influence of information and communication technologies (ICTs) has been profoundly transformative in the society. This has become particularly evident in the last two years, as the global pandemic has led to a significant shift of the economy, government operations, education, and healthcare towards digital platforms[1]. Moreover, the relationship between technology and education is deeply interconnected, and the emergence of ICTs has greatly influenced the methods of instruction and learning. However, digital divide continue to persist not only in developed countries but also in developing countries.

The digital divide is often attributed to the unequal access to the internet, but in reality, it is a result of multiple factors. These factors include the lack of affordable and high-speed internet, insufficient digital literacy education and training, inadequate infrastructure such as unreliable electricity, limited access to technology devices, and the absence of safe storage locations for these devices. All these issues hinder digital inclusion in society[2].

Particularly, in the education sector, the digital divide, being the disparity in the availability of essential technology and digital tools among students, teachers, and educational institutions, affects the quality of learning and teaching. Rwanda has the notable growing availability of the internet, but the digital divide continues to widen as many individuals are unable to access and utilize high-speed internet services due to the high costs associated with these services and digital devices, particularly mobile phones[3]. In terms of affordability, according to Alliance for Affordable Internet[4], Rwanda is ranked 58.03 of the Affordability Drivers Index (ADI)[5], among the top ten in the least developed countries, and LONDA (2020)[6] reported that Rwanda's education suffered deeply from digital exclusion due to lack of affordability.

Rationale

Regarding Rwanda's policy on ICT integration into the education sector, Rwanda seeks through ICT to revolutionize the nation's education system by digitizing academic resources. Therefore it is in this policy arena that Kigali Christian School (KCS) seeks to bridge the digital divide by accessing computers and further equipping the computer laboratories with additional digital equipment. KCS, a private educational institution and managed by Youth For Christ/Rwanda. Youth for Christ Rwanda runs four schools with two located in very needy rural areas to help transform poor rural areas.

Despite the established internet infrastructure and affordability, our schools lack modern computers/ laptops to facilitate learning and research. It is in this regard that KCS is looking for the support from partners to offer support with this dire need of computers to support quality learning.

---

[1] https://a4ai.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/A4AI_2021_AR_AW.pdf
[2] https://ctu.ieee.org/digital-divide-in-developing-countries-why-we-need-to-close-the-gap/
[3] https://paradigmhq.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/lr-Rwanda-Digital-Rights-Inclusion-2020-Report.pdf
[4] Alliance for Affordable Internet (2021). *The Affordability Report 2021*. Web Foundation
[5] The ADI is a tool developed by the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) to assess how well a country's policy, regulatory, and overall supplyside environment is working to lower industry costs and ultimately create more affordable broadband. In particular, policymakers and relevant stakeholders can use this tool to identify where progress is needed most.
[6] https://paradigmhq.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/lr-Rwanda-Digital-Rights-Inclusion-2020-Report.pdf

2. Objectives

The project objective is to seek the support and collaboration from esteemed institutions and partners for the KCS Student Computers Project. This project aims to enhance the learning experience of KCS students by equipping the learners with modern computing skills.

3. Expected outcomes

By supporting this KCS computer project, esteemed partners will not only contribute to the academic advancement of KCS students but also empower them with the essential skills needed for success in today's digital age. In this way, it is believed that esteemed institutions or our partners will share KCS commitment to fostering educational excellence and preparing students for their future opportunities.

4. Description of the issue

With the advancement of digital technologies, and their role in education, students are facing the challenge of adapting to technological change.

5. Beneficiairies

The beneficiaries are KCS students: Kigali, Rwamagana and Gicumbi

Campus	Number of Students	Number of computers needed
Kigali: Elementary	850	60 (Two labs one for lower one for upper)
Kigali Secondary	500	60 (For both Ordinary and Advanced level)
Elementary Rwamagana	650	30
Elementary Gicumbi	100	30
Total	2100	180

6. Cost of the computers:

180 X $ 390 = $ 70 200.

The price of the computer is found in this link:

https://www.alibaba.com/product-detail/2022-New-Sales-DELLs-OptiPlex-3080_1600712157296.html?spm=a2700.galleryofferlist.normal_offer.d_image.67f513a084VOSi

7. Contribution modalities either in kind or cash

Partners may provide their contributions either with computers or funds to procure them in Rwanda.

8. Specifications

While any laptop can be helpful, it is crucial to have the right equipment that caters to the academic needs of students for effective learning. This includes computers that are suitable for computer laboratories and classroom use, can enable distance or face-to-face learning, and promote digital literacy among students.

8. Education Policy in Rwanda

The Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) in Rwanda requires full integration of ICT in the teaching and learning process of students. With further introduction of Project Based Assessment, computers have become more urgent than ever before. ICT is pillar number three out of ten in the Rwanda curriculum framework after literacy and numeracy.