

Did you know that tech access is a dominant concern facing refugees coming into the UK? This is the root obstacle causing many issues.

Global refugees are 50% less likely than the others to have an internet capable phone. According to the UN refugee agency 20% of rural refugees have no access to connectivity. Device affordability is the largest barrier to internet access.

Having the appropriate tech would enable them to be able to connect with their families back home, find jobs in the new country, enhance their education, develop their CVs and ultimately help them connect with their new environment and build new relationships. So, we are looking to better integrate refugees into society through tech. Having a digital device is the essential first step to accomplish this.

Our solution, GiveTech, is a platform that centralises the process of connecting charities/organisations/refugee representatives to companies that are willing to provide used tech devices. Through the platform, charities or refugee representatives could request devices from companies whilst companies can keep track of their social impact.

Our platform makes an impact not only for the refugees but also the circular economy since we are aiming to reuse existing products that will be donated by companies that have second hand tech equipment.

Our team of software developers, data scientists, and finance experts will embark on the technical aspects of this project and build a vision to simplify the experience of integrating refugees into their new environment.

What's next

- Grant tech access to individual refugees who may not be associated with a particular charity
- Allow individual users to donate their laptops after some verification of the device by a tech expert.

- We intend to replicate this model across regions that host refugees and potentially scale our solution or help a different team implement the same model.

Help GiveTech bring our vision into life and help millions of lives of displaced refugees around the world. Thank you!//

What it does

Our app helps companies connect with charities/facilitators to donate tech that is in good working condition but no longer being used by employees. To elaborate, there are two parts to the app:

1. A company can sign up/create an account and input the devices they can provide, after having abided by the set requirements for the device needed. Furthermore, they must provide the details of the device and the collection process/means of contacting them. The company can also edit/view the devices they have listed.
2. The facilitator/charity can sign up/create an account. They can search for available devices within close proximity using the map and request those by nearby companies.
3. A refugee will have to connect with a nearby charity/facilitator to register themselves. The charity/facilitator will be the collection point of their device.

How we built it

We used the software tool Figma, which is a visualisation tool that helped us create a vision for our website, model of a Flask App.

Challenges we ran into

When trying to build the app itself, the code ran into some bugs that we managed to fix but could not refine in the 24-hour time period, therefore we focused more time on the wireframe. The framework on Figma is the refined version of what the app would potentially be.

Accomplishments we are proud of

We are proud of having come together to design a framework that could potentially simplify the process of facilitating tech access to refugees.

Our solution is something that can be implemented immediately.

- Does not require significant government intervention/approval
- Solution is quick to market and can be deployed in a short time period

Our folium integration allows us to quickly identify the available resources, within close proximity.

- We improved this map to allow filtering based on the type of device required, e.g. by laptop, tablet, phone.

What we learned

Using software tools such as Figma, folium library in python, geocoding, using an API to get addresses and turn them into longitude and latitude.

What's our vision ?

- We want to grant tech access to individual refugees who may not be associated with a particular charity but do have the necessary documentation and language skills to register and collect the devices on their own.
- We want to enable individual users and households, donate their laptops after a verification of the device by a tech expert.
- We intend to scale this model across multiple region that host refugees and even enable different teams implement the same model.

So Please join us and Help GiveTech bring our vision into life and help the lives of millions of displaced refugees around the world. Thank you!