

ICT Training For The Economically Disadvantaged Proposal

By

UPEO

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About UPEO

UPEO is a Kenyan community based organization (CBO) that was founded in 2017 with the sole aim of providing elementary ICT training and knowledge to the economically disadvantaged populations in the Kenyan society.

Introduction

Kenya is a country characterized by people possessing different levels of economic empowerment and social standings. Majority of this population (between 60% - 80%) reside in the economically disadvantaged category; those that live close to, or below the poverty line.

As the world progressively turns into a digital ecosystem, it has become more imperative that individuals get equipped with the necessary ICT knowledge and tools to enable them survive and compete effectively in the new world system.

ICT skills and knowledge has thus transformed into an important weapon necessary in the attainment of better livelihoods and lifestyles in any part of the world today.

Stemming out of ICT, the world has realized a new cadre of jobs that never existed 10 or more years ago. Today, ICT forms the backbone of company communications, social media interactions, email., messaging, website communications, etc. Jobs such as software engineers, system administrators, security experts, computer repair specialists, etc. are good example of careers duly credited to ICT advancements.

To enable developing countries like Kenya attain their development goals, ICT knowledge acquisition and utilization among their populations will have to take center stage.

A key demographic of the population that will need special attention is that of people living close to or below the poverty line. They face the imminent reality of being sidelined in matters ICT literacy.

Since this group can barely afford to take care of their pressing basic needs i.e. food, shelter and clothing, it may not be possible for them to spare money for use in acquisition of ICT literacy skills from professional colleges and institutions.

Proposal

At UPEO, we are proposing to setup a dedicated community training service to offer training to the economically disadvantaged in society. Our primary focus will be free ICT training in rural areas, the economically disadvantaged in the slum areas within Kenyan cities and towns.

We have a firm belief that all humans should be accorded an equal opportunity to enable them, explore their abilities and utilize them appropriately.

Introducing ICT training and capacity building to the less economically advantaged populations will be a key driver to pulling Kenya into a more optimistic, dynamic and thriving entrepreneurial arena with ICT as the driver.

An ICT literate population will be able to compete on a global scale and help in driving innovation and advancement of ICT globally.

Most people in Kenya still believe in material acquisitions such as land as a means of survival and measure of wealth. ICT can change this perception, enabling people to identify and associate with newer and more accommodative ways of wealth acquisition, reducing possibilities of conflicts.

Operations

UPEO currently operates at the following times:

During school days:

Mondays – Fridays 5pm to 8pm

Saturdays 9am to 12pm

During school holidays:

Mondays – Saturdays 9am to 12pm

As per Kenyan school curriculum, school holidays fall in the months of April, August and December. During these periods, school going children get time off school to rest or do other things while at home.

UPEO targets unemployed adults, school going and non-school going children who have attained 10 years and above.

Delivery Format

Our training is organized in batches with identified theme, number of participants and set goals. Each batch is expected to train as a team and participate in lab sessions, tests and knowledge appraisal as a team.

A training season/ session takes one month to complete. At the end of the training season, each batch is expected to showcase skills acquired during training after which tokens of appreciation for exemplar performances are awarded.

Training areas are identified before training season begins, after which trainers are allocated batches based on the training needs of the batch.

Training is delivered in theory and practical sessions where participants engage directly with provided computers to better their interactions and hands-on knowledge.

Sample Training Worksheet (attach)

To draw more participants and retain those already signed up, we propose to introduce free lunch to participant on Saturdays and during school holidays. Coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, many participants may not last long in training sessions unless there is an incentive (food) to draw and retain them.

Operation Areas

Our target areas include Sinai slums, Mukuru Kwa Njenga slums and Kibera slums.

Participants are always welcome to join anytime. Once they join, they are assigned to training batches, in which they will stay till they complete the training season.

Workforce

We have a training workforce of three (3) trainers. Each is stationed at the three different stations where we operate from.

Training staff

Anthony Nyoike

Hannington Omolo

Casper Odicoh

Administration Staff

Nicholas Kute

Maureen Achieng

Pelicia Atieno

Budget

Item	Quantity	Each (\$)	Total (\$)
Computers (10 for each station)	30	600	18,000
Projectors (1 for each station)	3	1,000	3,000
Furniture/ Utensils (\$1,500 for each station)		1,500	4,500
Travel expenses (\$1,000 monthly for all staff)	12	1,000	12,000
Training Space/ Office (\$1,000 monthly for the 3 stations)	12	1,000	12,000
Staff Appreciation (\$2,400 monthly for 6 staff)	12	2,400	28,800
Food (Saturdays per year) @ \$300 per day for 3 stations having 90 people (30 people per station)	52	300	15,600
Food (Holidays lunch per year) @ \$300 per day for 3 stations having 90 people (30 people per station), at 5 days/ week = (5days X 4 Wks) X 3 holiday seasons	60	300	18,000
Total			111,900

Participation by most learners is not continuous as many drop off midway, while some join midway and never stay on till the end of the training. We suspect this could be as a result of lack of an incentive to make them stay on.

We currently operate on funds donated by well-wishers. In the last financial year, we gathered funds able to finance a small fraction of our real capacity if we had adequate funding.

Targets/ Projections

We expect to reach a target of 3,600 unique individuals per year. This is pegged at 100 individuals per month per station.

$$100 \times 12 = 1,200 \times 3 \text{ stations} = 3,600 \text{ people}$$

We expect that after initial training and familiarization with ICT, participants will be at liberty to use our facilities and participate in regular contest initiated by us aimed at retaining and advancing the knowledge imparted on our students.

From the 20 computers for each station, each instructor will be allocated 1. 18 will be used to setup a lab for training and practical sessions.

Security – Slum setting will require good security to safeguard the gadgets against theft and/ or destruction. A fortified lab area will be crucial to our operations.

Alternatively, the computers could be ferried to the stations during computer/ lab sessions.

Fortification could be in the form of a permanent structure with security personnel to man the premises on a 24-7 basis. We expect the adjacent community to later step in and help improve the security of the premises upon realization of the benefits brought about by what we do.

Preferred options – Solar powered computers for rural areas and slums, and conventional PCs to target other urban areas.