PRIORITY FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP & DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

(PEN TANZANIA)

CONCEPT NOTE PAPER

SUBMITED TO: USAID TANZANIA

TITLE OF PROPOSED PROJECT: **EMPOWERING ICT ADAPTATION IN GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS THROUGH MOBILE COMPUTER LAB PROGRAM IN**

DAR ES SALAAM & BAGAMOYO REGION

INTRODUCTION

Education in Tanzania is managed mainly through the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, which currently has a minister, deputy minister, permanent secretary, chief education officer, and several directors in charge of basic education, secondary education, teacher education, policy and planning, administration and personnel, inspection of schools and vocational training. The ministry also has several independent agencies under it responsible for some core functions such as the National Education Council of Tanzania, (NECTA) the Tanzania Library Services Board, (TLSB) Vocational Education Training (VETA) among others.

Tanzania follows a 7-4-2-3 system of education. Primary schooling takes seven years, followed by four years of secondary, two years of high school (advanced level), and three years of first degree university studies. In 2016/2017 the budgetary allocation for the education sector stands at Tzs 4.77 trillion which is equivalent to 22.1% of the total budget excluding public debt service. Allocation has been made to address among others: free basic education; operational costs for schools including capitation, food, purchase of books and examinations expenses; higher education students' loans; construction and rehabilitation of infrastructures at all levels.

Tanzania finalized its information and communication Technology (ICT) policy for Basic Education which incorporates the integration of ICTs in pre-primary, primary, secondary and teacher education, as well as non-formal and adult education. According to the country report provided by infoDev-supported survey of ICT education in Africa (2007) states that; the ICT policy was developed in consultation with stakeholders, including a workshop in October 2006, whereby the policy considers issues of infrastructure, curriculum and content, training and capacity development, planning procurement and administration management, support and sustainability and monitoring and evaluation. References to ICTs are also prominent in all three policy documents that govern the education sector in Tanzania in general. These are the Education and Training Policy of 1995, the Primary Education and Development Plan (PEDP) 2002-2006, and the Secondary Education Development Plan (SEDP) 2004-2009. All three documents

emphasize the need for access to and improved quality of education for all despite the increasing numbers of enrolments. Both the PEDP and SEDP prioritize ICT-based information management at all levels and an introduction of computer courses into primary and secondary education.

RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

According to the Tanzania education policy ICT training (computer course) is a compulsory subject that ought to be taught in all primary and secondary schools in Tanzania, however due to lack of sufficient resources this activity has been a nightmare in most of the government schools which has brought some kind of inequality in education system. In reference to the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) of 2030*, it is clearly indicated in goal number 4 which states "ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning". At PEN Tanzania, the term inclusive and quality education for all applies as well in ICT training to students who attend to public schools, it is with no doubt that most if not "all" of the private schools in Tanzania are well equipped with ICT resources which includes computers, teachers with skills, and space/rooms for learning this very basic skill. Unfortunately in many of our government schools in Tanzania lack such basic resources despite the good ICT policy that our government have in place.

As a youth led organization PEN Tanzania did a random survey in Dar es Salaam city in 2013 to see the rate at which computer course is being offered in government primary schools and these were some of the findings we got from the field;

- Public primary schools do not have special rooms/labs for the computer lessons
- There are no computers in public primary schools
- Teachers do not have sufficient teaching skills on the basic computer lessons
- For the schools where computer lessons are taught, it's more of theories and not practical lessons
- Public school systems does not prioritize ICT education at the same level as their counter parts in private schools
- Lack of accountability around ICT education in public schools.

The world is changing very fast and it has now become a global village with high competition within the East African Region and around the globe, it is a mere fact that without knowledge on basic computer skills it is very hard to become a competitive nation in the Region which brings about a lot of negative consequences to the younger generation and youths in general. For instance a graduate from university may be looking for a job but during an interview or at work most of them lack basic knowledge on computer and it's crucial programs such as MS Word, Excel and so forth, which is a bad reflection to our education system and government as well in this very 21st Century.

PEN Tanzania aims at empowering students in public schools with ICT skills through its famous program known as "mobile computer lab" which has been successfully implemented in Dar es Salaam Kinondoni District at Kijitonyama primary, Makumbusho primary school and Mwananyamala Primary school. The mobile computer lab has been running since November 2013 to date with the help from our donor Reach for Change Tanzania which is among the Kinnoveck group of companies. Through their generous support PEN Tanzania was able to establish 1 permanent computer lab in Kijitonyama primary school and hold different ICT inter school debates among the pupils.

PEN Tanzania in 2017, wishes to expand its service to the other parts of Tanzania where there is also a high level of ICT illiteracy among the students in primary schools. We would like to expand this program on more schools in Dar es salaam and Bagamoyo Region as our pilot project zone.

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Goal; To develop the digital literacy skills and competencies for primary students needed in the 21st century, which will help the learners in their future careers.

Objectives:

- Help students to become competent and confident users who can use the basic knowledge and skills acquired to assist them in their daily lives.
- Empower students who are unable to use this technology outside the school premises by ensuring sufficient access to those students.
- ensure equity among all learners, as they will all have the same opportunities to use the ICT facilities in school
- Assist students to grow personally by facilitating different methods of learning.

PROJECT STRATEGY

PEN Tanzania will use the following strategies in implementing this project;

1. Introduction of the project to the identified schools, community and to the Local government authorities.
2. Setting up of the ICT training sessions/timetable with the school teachers.
3. Conducting of the pre evaluation on the ICT knowledge and understanding among the enrolled students and their teachers to the project.
4. Equipping the mobile computer lab with the necessary equipment's like computers, tables and chairs.
5. Finding stakeholder to equip the schools with permanent computer lab.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The project is expected to have the following results during and after its completion;

- A well groomed young generation that is capable of using basic technology skills to advance in their studies and future careers.
- To have a society that has many computer literate youths empowered from a younger generation which will foster positive competition in the Region, provide room for self-employment once they graduate and bring about development in different sectors in the country.
- To see equality in education sector particularly in ICT skills between private and public (government) schools.
- For every child despite their background to have basic knowledge on ICT skills which they can build on in their future careers after primary education.
- To see a sensitized and motivated government and other development partners who are willing to put more efforts in establishing favorable systems and environments for schools and students to learn more on ICT courses.
- Primary school teachers competent enough with ICT skills, willing to take on the role of training and empowering students in their schools on ICT knowledge.

INNOVATION (HOW IT IS DIFFERENT FORM OTHER PROJECTS)

The "mobile computer lab program" is different from other projects because of the following unique aspects;

- The aspect of being mobile (moving from one school to another depending on their timetable) is a unique aspect of this project, since we are guided by the schedule the school puts in collaboration with our organization.
- Being mobile means we have a van (although it is small, but looking forward to acquire a bigger van to suit our needs) from which we have created some kind of working space for children schooling in the interior parts of the communities where they do not have access to electricity or space to learn within their school compound. Children get to board in our van which for now it takes few students at a time and some have to sit outside surrounding the car so as to access the power from the solar powered batteries during the session, however our vision is to have a bigger van/bus that will accommodate at least 30 students at a time for a session.
- This project is also unique because in the areas where schools have access to electricity and have ample classes we work with the school management to create a computer laboratory and we help to equip the lab with the important resources like computers, lights, cables tables and chairs for the students. All this we do in collaboration with the school and willing donors.
- Another aspect of the uniqueness of the project is that, we also provide ICT skills courses to the teachers in schools who are willing to learn on computer skills, we do this for the sole purpose of continuation of the project once we exit from the school to another school. It also provides a sense of ownership to the school but also to the community in general.

OUR REQUEST.

PEN Tanzania being an upcoming organization, led with active and committed youths who wants to impact the Tanzanian society with different skills that will help its citizens come out of poverty, ignorance and diseases, would like to work with you to pilot this project as "suggested above in Dar es salaam and Bagamoyo Regions.

ORGANIZATION'S BACKGROUND

ABOUT PEN TANZANIA

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BACKGROUND

Pen Tanzania is an acronym of "Priority for Entrepreneurship Network". PEN Tanzania was registered in 2009, with the registration number S.A 16563 under the society act, CAP.337 (R.E.2002). Pen Tanzania is a nascent organization with passionate young funders and program staff, the organization has tangible program activities that actively involve its beneficiaries in the design and delivery of services. The vision of the organization is to see a well-educated and learned society determined to improve all spheres of life.

This vision has been carried out by providing ICT training to students and teachers, providing health programs on menstrual health management (MHM) through WASH approach to girls students, school teachers and the community, providing of entrepreneurship knowledge to youths as well as women and organized groups in the community. PEN Tanzania have collaborated with the government, public and private institutions in the matters of community concern and interest, we are still looking forward to network and collaborate with other likeminded organizations who aim at building the capacity of youths, girls and women in the areas of entrepreneurship, ICT education, health, education, gender equality and other life skills trainings.

PEN TANZANIA PROGRAMS

The organization has the following programs explained in a nutshell;

1. Mobile computer lab; Mainly intended to teach public primary school students on basic computer knowledge (ICT skills) and how they can use this technology to learn more about other lessons like Mathematics, English, nature and so forth. We teach kids from class five to seven most of them belong in the age group of (11-15). At PEN Tanzania we advocate for equal opportunities in education for all, hence trying to bridge the gap between private schools and government/public schools in Tanzania.

2. SHE Inspire program; the program intends to empower vulnerable adolescent girls and young women with self-development tools, guidance and support to strive for better and brighter futures. Through this program we empower adolescent girls and young women on their Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights issues including the issues in Menstrual Health Management & personal hygiene (WASH), HIV/AIDS, STD's and family planning methods. We help adolescent girls and young women to raise their voices towards campaigning for their human rights socially, economically and politically.

3. Economic Empowerment program; the economic empowerment program is within the Entrepreneurship empowerment program. It is one of the major programs that our organization has been implementing since 2014. Our target groups in this program are youths, women (Including young girls) and budding entrepreneurs who run different Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's), together with those who wish to begin their journey in entrepreneurship field.

4. Youth Hub Centre; Is a program that was established to build upon the already existing dreams and visions that the youths have. The program is run through the support of Barclay's Bank Tanzania aiming at empowering youths (who are in school and dropouts) with different life skills programs such as ICT training,

entrepreneurship skills, self-confidence communication and presentation skills among many other basic skills provided at the center.

SCOPE OF WORK AND AFFILIATION

PEN Tanzania has its headquarters in Dar es Salaam Tanzania and a branch office in Zanzibar Islands. The organization has been working in different Regions in Tanzania including Tanga (Handeni), Dar es Salaam, Bagamoyo, Mkuranga, Lindi, Mbeya, Moshi and in Zanzibar Islands. The organization has a total number of 8 staffs (4 ladies and 4 men), among them 5 staffs work full time and 3 are part time staffs (volunteers). Since the establishment of the organization PEN Tanzania has been able to impact the lives of 1,000 students with ICT skills, 600 adolescent girls and their teachers with Menstrual Hygiene Management program (MHM-WASH), 150 youths have been impacted with different basic life skills programs and a total number of 2070 women& girls with entrepreneurship skills in both Tanzania mainland and in Zanzibar Islands.

PEN Tanzania has worked with different local and international NGO's and is a member to some of the networks within and outside the country. PEN Tanzania is affiliated with the following networks;

- Reach for change Tanzania (Change leaders network); Reach for Change is a non-profit organization founded by the Kinnevik Group (network of companies from Sweden) to improve the lives of children and youth, Reach for change invests in social entrepreneurs who have; a strong desire to promote children's rights, an innovative idea to change the world for children, and the passion and the drive to create this change.
- Girls and not Brides; Headquarters in UK-London, The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage are committed to ending child marriage, a harmful traditional practice that affects millions of children, predominantly girls, every year. Together we amplify the voices of girls at risk of child marriage and defend the rights of girls to health, education and the opportunity to fulfill their potential. In line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- Molly's network; It is a network that seeks to support Civil Society Organization through 'Molly's Accreditation' and their complementary capacity building model in Tanzania

- Men Engage Alliance; A global alliance with representatives from each continent, the alliance falls within the Sonke's International program unit that seeks to develop the work of local organizations in engaging men and boys in sexual and reproductive health.

- 28TH Menstrual Hygiene Day: An international organization established to advocate for safe menstrual hygiene for girls and women around the globe. Working in close partnership with WASH United International

- Tanzania Ending Child Marriage Network (TECMN); A local network that bring together local organizations who work and advocate for girls humanity and rights in Tanzania.

- Policy Forum Tanzania; A network of NGO's striving to increase informed civil society participation in decisions and actions that determine how policies affect ordinary Tanzanians, particularly the most disadvantaged focusing in Local governance, public money and Active Citizen's voice.

- Tanzania Council for Social Development (TACOSODE); TACOSODE is an umbrella NGO aiming at improving the capacities of NGOs and CBOs to deliver quality services through training, networking, policy analysis, lobbying and advocacy.