

# **PROPOSAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ICT CENTRE FOR GIRLS IN MATHARE**



## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

<b>PROJECT NAME:</b>	ICT Center and Digital Library for Girls in Mathare
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Mathare, Nairobi, Kenya
<b>SUBMITTING ORGANIZATION:</b>	Ready Aiders Foundation
<b>CONTACT PERSON:</b>	Kenneth Apopa, Chief Executive Officer
<b>CONTACT DETAILS:</b>	Email: kennethapopa@readyaiders.ngo Mobile: 0702623359
<b>AMOUNT REQUESTED:</b>	\$50,000
<b>ADDRESSED TO:</b>	

## INTRODUCTION

### ABOUT US

Ready Aiders Foundation is a non-governmental organization that creates awareness and interventions for persons living with disability and empowers women and girls both socially and economically. Founded in 2014, our mission has been to create awareness as well as seek and promote solutions to challenges faced by persons living with disability with a key focus on women and girls.

One billion people, or 15% of the world's population, experience some form of disability. Persons with disabilities, on average as a group, are more likely to experience adverse socioeconomic outcomes than persons without disabilities. Since our inception, we have been working on providing health, academic and economic solution for persons living with disabilities, for them to access health care and experience positive socioeconomic outcomes in their day-to-day lives.

At Ready Aiders Foundation, we envisage a society that completely recognizes, embraces, integrates, and empowers people with disabilities and provides more possibilities for women and girls to be empowered as change agents in their communities.





#### *Our Objectives:*

1. To establish strong community partnerships and links that enhance women and girl's empowerment.
2. To support persons living with disability by providing them with assistive devices, therapy services, economic empowerment programs, education and learning and feeding programs.

#### *Our current projects:*



- **Girls ICT Center and Digital Library in Mathare.** We teach girls from low-income areas short courses like coding, graphics design, website design and basic computer packages for free.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Therapy centers for children with disabilities.</b> We run an all-services free therapy center in Mathare and Kawangware slums in Nairobi, here we offer occupational therapy, speech therapy, play therapy and physical therapy for free to children with the following conditions, Autism, Cerebral palsy, down syndrome, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, dyslexia and malnutrition-based disorders.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Light, Mr. and Miss Autism Kenya event.</b> Throughout the year we create awareness on Autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders by crowning a young adult of any gender living with Autism (Light of Autism Kenya) and assisted by two neurotypical adults (Mr. and Miss Autism Kenya).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ready Aiders TV.</b> We have set up an online tv on YouTube to tell stories of young women and people living with disabilities, their challenges, achievements, dreams and perspective on health, poverty, education and empowerment. These stories are used to inspire hope and build resilience.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clean plate nutrition project.</b> This is a feeding project that provides food packages quarterly to families that have children with disabilities and are living in low-income and or rural areas.</li> </ul>

To find out more about us please click [here](#) to visit our website.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) to enhance the quality and quantity of education related services has become an integrated part of education projects in developing countries like Kenya. However, the use of ICT to enhance education and related services has not always been recognized as successful. This is due to many reasons including lack of skills, funds and motivation of the entities involved. In most cases, ICT has proved to be an important tool in assisting majority of people to secure employment and has gained positive advantage in creating self-employment for youths in Kenya.

Women empowerment is one of the goals for Kenya's Vision 2030 initiative which aims to create a better quality of living for all Kenyans in a rapidly industrializing environment. While progress has been made through policy to establish gender equality, poverty and education disparities still play a big role in stifling government efforts. Girls, particularly those from marginalized areas, still struggle to access higher education. They are discouraged from pursuing Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) related courses and occupations, and with the additional risk of early pregnancies and sexual abuse, girls are more likely to drop-out and end up as young single mothers.

With no technical skills or experience, these women and girls have no fair chance in a very competitive job market and may lack the technological know-how to venture out on their own thus continuing in the vicious cycle of poverty and unemployment among women and girls. The Ready Aiders ICT Center and Digital Library for girls' project in Mathare slums seeks to solve this by offering short term ICT courses to girls. At the ICT Center they get a chance to gain skills in coding, graphics design, website design and basic computer packages for free for a period of nine months. With these skills and certification, they are able to venture into self-employment or maximize their chances of getting into formal employment. Supporting and funding this project means putting more than 100 girls per year through the courses and giving them skills that will help them cut ties with poverty and its accompanying social ills.

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

We are living in a dynamic world, where technology is evolving at a rapid pace. But Kenya, specifically the demographic of young girls and women from low-income areas like Mathare are much behind in terms of comprehension and interaction with technology and Stem related courses. Poverty and vulnerability-stricken slums that makes it hard for girls living in such areas to pursue their dream courses in STEM. Most affected population in terms of job security are women and girls especially those coming from these slums. This project targets young girls who have completed form four. The project will equip 600+ girls coming from Mathare and its environs. Girls will be equipped with literacy in computer basics, coding, graphic design and web design as well as basic computer which will act as a key tool for them to secure jobs in the ICT industry and other sectors. It is true that girls from Mathare slums are prone to most challenges which drag the community in poverty. Those who will be trained will be at better position to find jobs, become free lancers, survive and thrive in the Kenya workplace.

Mathare is a collection of slums in Nairobi Kenya with a population of approximately 500,000 people and majority living below the poverty line. Mathare slums consist of roughly constructed mud, tin, irons or wooden one roomed huts with no proper electricity and sewerage system. Access to amenities like water is usually from a single shared tap, typically serving an average of 400 plus families.

Due to vulnerability of this community, majority of girls here live in poverty, fear and constant chaos which demeans them in society and also reduces their chances in accessing education and skills opportunities as compared to their male counter parts.

Institutions and colleges or vocational trainings are less and sparsely distributed in Mathare slums. Girls find it difficult to join these vocational trainings due to the high cost of perusing single course.

Our program has great impact to the girls coming from this area as they are be equipped with technological skills for free. We are seeking the support for this project from the donors and philanthropic individual or organization to enable us run the Centre effectively and with sufficient resources. Therefore, Ready Aiders Foundation is providing the solution to the challenges the girls living in Mathare and its environs. By running an ICT center for girls, we are saying no to gender inequality and encouraging empowerment of young women and girls for a better life.



*Amina Hassan, a student at the Ready Aiders ICT Center for girls during a class session.*

#### GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

1. To enhance the skills level of young girls to prepare them for employment in ICT industries and other marketable job areas.
2. To provide young girls with vocational and job-oriented courses like Basic Computer, Coding, Web design and Graphic design.
3. To fulfill the goal of gender equity and removal of unemployment and poverty.
4. To provide opportunities for young girls to learn skills in Stem related courses with a sharper focus on ICT.
5. To offer testimonies of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics to encourage scientific vocations, especially in girls from low-income areas.
6. To promote gender equity in STEM in Kenya.
7. Alleviation of poverty and unemployment of girls in slums in Kenya.

## BENEFICIARIES

Young girls in upper primary, high school and grade twelve (form four leavers) from low-income areas.

## DETAILS ON THE CURRENT RUNNING ICT CENTER IN MATHARE

Currently, we are running an ICT Centre in Mathare at Ngalgunga House next to shell gas station along Juja Road. We currently have a total number of 15 girls in the project. Due to unavailability of sufficient funds and other resources we cannot admit the over 30 girls on our waiting list. We are looking for partners, donors and philanthropic individuals or organizations to support us meet the objectives of the project. Despite the challenges on the ground, we strive towards providing practical and quality ICT skills to the girls enrolled.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Some of the results to the indicators will be:

- Over 600 under privileged girls from Mathare will be endowed with employable skills.
- The project will directly benefit over 600 plus girls from Mathare area
- Beneficiaries will be empowered with relevant ICT skills to effectively compete in the job market.
- Over 600 plus girls will be empowered as the decision makers of their families as part of the project plan and they will be involved in planning, designing, and implementation and participatory of the projects within the organization.
- Young women and girls will be able to take up leading roles in local self-governance forums.



## **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

The basic premise of this project is self-employability and unleashing the community transformational power that young women and girls inherently have.

The program is scheduled to run for 5 years. Each year will have two cohort sessions with each going for 9 months. We have a core team, training plan and a designed curriculum for training purpose. We will afford the opportunity to bring in mentors to talk and walk with the girls in matters concerning the social life and life skills. With the increase in the number of computers and securing a larger space we will be able to enroll more students into the program as we progress. Currently we are able to have 15 girls (beneficiaries) to sufficiently use the available resources that we have in our Centre.

## **PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

The project will significantly affect the lives of these girls and young women after completing the computer course and of the young girls who got the opportunity to be instructed at the ICT Centre. We will look at how these skills can be converted into income generation activities, livelihood security and self-employability. This would bring about the much-needed confidence among them helping them move forward towards development. Their active participation in the decision-making process, community-based planning and being instructed will bring about ownership of the project.

Ready Aiders Foundation will continue to play an active role to facilitate the young and energetic girls and women to establish a strong link with government schemes and projects so as to generate the required assistance. Internal income will be generated in the form of donations, member's subscription fee, fundraising annually. This project will motivate the unemployed girls and young women to start micro enterprises at local level as well as control migration.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The whole project will be under the supervision of a monitoring team and supported by documentation. The monitoring team will be appointed either by the funding agency or by the organization. The monitoring team will be selected so as to ensure community participation. There will be a Project Manager to monitor the entire project and document the activities. An annual audit and evaluation will be in place for the budget and will have comments and the action through the budget.

## CHALLENGES

The ICT center has a limited number of computers (currently only 6). Our initial goal was to have 15 computers for every 30 students in the first cohort. Shared. Other challenges include:

- limited space to accommodate more students. The room can only accommodate a maximum of 6 computers resulting to accommodation of less than twenty students.
- There are recurring computer expenses, such as regular software updates, particularly for the software needed to acquire and teach the technological skills that the girls are equipped with.
- The difficulty to pay rent for the room where the girls are trained. This is why we chose to start with a small room in order to be able to afford the monthly rent.
- Salaries to pay the tutor, project manager, project coordinator and facilitators for community development during the conception stage and on fulltime basis. We are currently relying on qualified volunteers to offer these services.
- Unstable WI-FI within the area. The WI-FI is unreliable and cause some delays.
- Lack of enough teaching material that include laptop for the tutor, marker, manila paper, program documentation.

## PROJECT FINANCIAL BUDGET

The projected budget shows the amount required to run the program for a period of one year that is from August 2022 to August 2023. We therefore call upon for the assistance to raise the amount from donors and philanthropic individuals or organizations, etc.

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL COST IN USD
Tutor	2 tutors at \$400 each monthly.	9,600
Project Manager	\$500 monthly.	6,000
Facilitator for Community Development	2@ \$350 monthly each. They help in the collection of the data from the community.	8,400
M & E Officer	\$400 monthly.	4,800
Security Officer	1 Officer at \$250 monthly.	3,000
Formative evaluation cost	Evaluation done at the end of the year, after 12 months of training.	1,200
HP Desktops (HP 29091 MT DESKTOP PENTIUM 4560 4GB RAM)	25 desktops at \$430 each to be used for the lessons.	10,750
Laptops (HP) (HP Notebook 14-am088nia - 14" - 6th Gen Intel Core i3 – 500GB HDD - 4GB RAM - Free DOS)	Two laptops for the two tutors at \$415 each	830
Epson Printer	2 printers to be used for printing, scanning and photocopying services. Cost is \$200 each	400
Sony Projector	At \$400.For teaching purpose.	400

Rent on classrooms	2 classrooms @ \$100 each a month paid in advance to cover a full year.	2,400
Whiteboard	2 @ \$120 4'x3 ft. portable single sided whiteboard.	240
Office supplies and stationery	Ink and printing paper, pencils, and notebooks etc.	500
Risk cost	Cost for repair and maintenance of computers and other electric gadgets.	160
Electricity bills		564
Internet Supply	Safaricom Home Fibre,40 mbs at \$ 63 monthly	756
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>50,000</b>

## CONTACT US;

Website: [www.readyaiders.ngo](http://www.readyaiders.ngo)

Email: [kennethapopa@readyaiders.ngo](mailto:kennethapopa@readyaiders.ngo)

Phone: +254702623359

### READY AIDERS FOUNDATION.

*Touch One, Touch All.*

Mathare, Opposite Moi Airbase, JujaRoad.  
P. O. BOX 15039 - 00100 GPO Nairobi, Kenya  
Cell:+254705526422.  
email: [info@readyaiders.ngo](mailto:info@readyaiders.ngo)  
web:[www.readyaiders.ngo](http://www.readyaiders.ngo)

