



Pilot Project: Computer Assistive Technology Support to Blind Law Students

Since 2009, inABLE.org has empowered blind and low vision youth in Africa through assistive technology learning labs at schools for the blind across Kenya. To date over 14,500 students have gained computer skills capabilities that allow them to proficiently operate desktop, laptop, and mobile technology.

Blind and Visually Impaired students who have not interacted with our Computer Assistive Technology program find it hard to transition to tertiary education because their learning from Primary to High School is through Braille. The challenge comes when lecturers assess their assignments or must mark their papers, because they must take them to different institutions for transcription first before awarding marks. Braille is also bulky and expensive, which means the students struggle to get reading and writing materials, as well as limited studying resources. These delays in receiving performance feedback combined with the inability to maximize efficiencies through computer technology take a toll on the students' confidence and create higher stress levels than sighted peers.

To eliminate these learning barriers, inABLE is proposing an extension of its effective Computer Assistive Technology training to aid university students that have these challenges, so that they leverage the power of technology and have soft copy reading materials. Also, procuring laptops for the students will go a long way in ensuring that they do not depend on Braille for their learning.

The plan is to start with a cohort of 20 students in the pilot project who will be provided with laptops and the right Assistive Technology software for their studies but have them trained on how to use the technology first for a period of two to three months.

To launch this vital inclusive education computer technology lifeline in December 2022, inABLE is commencing a *University Laptop Program for the Blind Campaign* to raise US\$ 20,000.00.