

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT TO ESTABLISH A COMPUTER CENTER FOR CHILDREN IN MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES

Project Title: **ICT Center For Education and Job Creation**



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Dear Supporters,



First and foremost, we are extremely grateful for your continued support of PANKO Youth Center. Without your support, we wouldn't have been able to start PANKO and run it till this day, where hundred (100) marginalized children have so far benefitted.

In January this year, I got emotionally touched; because I have never seen the children so excited than the day we introduced them to a computer and they got to touch it and hit the keyboard for the first time. The reason we are looking to raise an initial amount of (11.730 EU) to start a first phase computer project with 15 used laptops, using existing classroom at PANKO to help the over 2000 rural students in high-poverty and low performing schools without Information Communication Technology (ICT) facilities in our locality. This project becomes necessary because every child deserves a quality education and to be carried along in this digital age.

We are coming to you once again to seek for your support to realize this project, which we anticipate to commence in October, 2022. Your support will go toward purchasing used laptops, furniture, and other equipments; and to cover a running cost for 15 months. And we cannot achieve this without your support and every support we get takes us one step closer to achieving our goal.

Thank you in advance for your contribution.

Sincerely,



Mubarak Alhassan
(Director, PANKO Youth Center)



“My school does not have an I.C.T center and this has affected my learning. I can say same for my colleagues who do not have computers at their schools and at home. Until I got enrolled at PANKO, I had never touched a computer but since we have I.C.T lessons at the center, our tutor will bring the office laptop to demonstrate to us. I feel sad that we do not have many computers for me and my class mates to learn the practical aspect.”

**-Asampana Blessing
(PANKO Beneficiary)**

Why We Need To Implement The Project



Computer teacher draws Microsoft Word on the blackboard in Ghana for lack of computers. (Picture Credit: Richard Appiah Akoto).

The world is rapidly becoming digital every day and less than 3% of young people living in marginalized communities in Northern Ghana own and use computers (Household Survey on ICT, 2020). Thus, many youth lack the digital skills necessary to successfully access knowledge, information and meaningful employment opportunities.

Also, in the communities PANKO operates, none of the basic schools has a computer center and the children end up learning computer skills on the blackboard for lack of computers and qualified ICT teachers. Despite their situation, they are compelled to compete unfairly in the same examination with their colleagues in urban schools who have good ICT facilities.

To include young people from these marginalized communities in the digital economy that drives growth, empowerment and job creation, it is recognized that vulnerable groups – especially rural children and youth - do not possess the skills to fully participate to such development and to embrace the range of services driving inclusive growth. Therefore, establishing a computer center is necessary to deal with the aforementioned challenges.



“Teaching I.C.T has been a major challenge for me as a teacher. We teach only theory and show pictures of computer and its peripherals to the pupils. The results at the end always show the disparities between the schools with a well equipped I.C.T facility and those without. The sad part is when pupils can mention all the external devices to a computer yet cannot identify them if kept in front of them. There are instances we don’t have I.C.T materials and this makes it extremely difficult to even teach the theory aspect. Personally, I depend on my phone, where I download from the internet to show to my pupil. It is a sad reality.”

–Mohammed Abdul Manan (ICT Teacher, Public School)

Project Aim

The project aims to establish a computer center at PANKO to serve young people from five (4) marginalized communities, in order to support their education and make them competitive in the job market, as a strategy to lift them out of extreme poverty.

Project Objectives

- ✚ To establish a well equipped computer center at PANKO.
- ✚ To offer inclusive access and competency-based ICT trainings to children and youth to respond to educational and labour market needs.
- ✚ To make internet accessible for young people to share and access electronic resources and network with others globally.
- ✚ To involve partners, drawing in their expertise, technical and financial ability to facilitate and sustain the project.

Benefits Of The Project

This project would inculcate ICT skills in children and also help them to learn the subjects better with the support of ICT.

When a young person has an in-depth knowledge of MS Office, it means that such a person can make use of features in Word, Excel, PowerPoint or Access and can make better presentations and thus becomes outstanding both in school and in the job market.

One requirement for job creation is such that one must at least be an ICT literate to secure a job. So the computer center will offer new opportunities for these young people to become computer literate, in order for them to progress in their education and careers; become competitive in the job market; rise above poverty and contribute to national development.

Learning to code, and use some of the graphic designing tools, especially CorelDraw and Photoshop, can offer direct employment to these young people.

Equipping young people with skills to repair, restore and maintain computer hardware and develop software, coupled with entrepreneurial training, will assist them to start up businesses to become independent.

In conclusion, getting an ICT center at Panko is a priority as a means to empower the school-going children in the communities we serve to bridge the digital disparity for them to compete favorably with their urban counterparts in this ICT world.



“As a graduate of a secretarial school, I landed myself a job in a printing and design company. After Senior High School, I couldn’t find a job as a secretary because almost all the jobs opening I came across required basic knowledge in computer. I got myself enrolled in a secretariat school and started from scratch. Today I have working experience with computers, especially I have an in-depth knowledge with Microsoft Suit, Coral Draw etc. This knowledge got me really prepared for the job market and I am happy I made this firm decision. Imagine if I could use the computer from my basic school days, this could reduce the time I used in searching for job.”

–Abass Suraya (Secretary, Updates Business Ltd)



“I’m so excited sitting behind a computer. I wish the computers were many, so that everyone would get to learn with a computer”

–Mumuni Ibrahim (PANKO Beneficiary)

Calendar and Curriculum

The computer center project will have three calendars; After-school sessions, Weekend sessions and School holiday sessions. So in a year, we will have 1,088 hours of ICT lessons from After-school, Saturdays and School holidays hours.

The curricula for this project shall provide adequate opportunity for hands on learning. It will include a structured curriculum for children and beginners to learn to interact with and use the computer by learning mouse use, keyboarding, typing, and other basic computer skills through a carefully selected computer based games.

The curriculum for intermediate and advance learners will include word processing, spreadsheet, database, multimedia and graphic designing, internet communications, cyber security, and computer programming among other digital skills.

Leaning these skills will prepare young people of all ages with the skills needed to meet the challenges of an increasingly digital world and open doors of opportunities.

BUDGET

Although, the project aim is to establish a well equipped 25 capacity computer center, we would like to realize this project in 2 phases, starting a first phase in October, 2022, with 15 used laptops and using existing classroom at PANKO. After 15 months, we would then decide for a possible upgrade as the second phase of the project.

For now, we present to you the first phase budget for your consideration and support.

BUDGET DETAILS

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED		
Equipment	Quantity	Amount (EU)
Used Laptops	15	4,100
Furniture	15	1,300
Routers	1	175
Air conditioner	1	430
Projector	1	500
White Board	1	45
Electrical Works		150
Burglar Proof door & metal guard		300
TOTAL		7,000
RUNNING COST FOR 15 MONTHS		
Description	No. of Month	Amount (EU)
Stationery	15	450
Internet Bill	15	300
Utility Bill	15	180
Maintenance	15	500
Salary (Security)	15	1,100
Salary (ICT Tutor)	15	2,200
TOTAL		4,730
TOTAL (Equipment +Running)		11,730

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THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION