

# PROJECT REPORT

## Donor:

The Thriplow Charitable Trust

## Grant Amount:

£2,948

## Project Duration:

20 months

## Project Start Date:

01/07/2023

## Project End Date:

31/03/25

## Location:

Absa Innovation Hub,  
Livingstone, Zambia

## No. of beneficiaries:

20



# Digital Skills Accelerator

**Project Aim:** Our Digital Skills Accelerator aims to equip 20 school leavers aged 17–23 from low-income families in underserved communities in Livingstone with essential digital skills. Through targeted training in basic computing, coding, and web development, we seek to create pathways to higher education and meaningful employment. This initiative is designed to bridge the digital divide, empowering young people to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven world.

**Background and Context:** Zambia's education system has not adapted to the growing importance of digital skills for young people's futures. Low digital access and skills are further exacerbated by poverty, with only 8% of households in Zambia owning a computer (ZICTA, 2018), leaving many adolescents unprepared for technology-driven job markets.

**Beneficiaries:** With 60% of Zambia's population under 25, teaching 21st-century skills is crucial to preparing young people for the future. Many school leavers face high youth unemployment rates and feel unprepared for higher education or work, largely due to gaps in digital literacy.

## Outcomes:

- Web Development Skills Acquired - all 20 participants gained proficiency in C, Python, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript.
- Improved Employability - graduates secured internships with local tech firms, applying their new skills effectively.
- Increased Community Awareness - 'Hour of Code' and 'New Careers Fair' events engaged community members in digital literacy.
- Pathways to Education and Internships - graduates accessed further education and internships through local business partnerships.
- Enhanced Problem Solving - students demonstrated critical thinking and creativity through coding projects.

**Challenges:** Limited access to reliable internet due to loadshedding, which impacted the consistency of training sessions. Additionally, engaging local businesses for internship placements proved challenging due to competition and limited capacity in the tech sector.

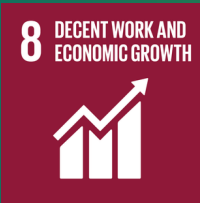


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## Highlights:

- Internet access
- Web development training
- Internships & jobs
- Strengthened partnerships
- Coding events
- Graduation event

## Related SDGs:



# Digital Skills Accelerator

**Future directions:** Future directions for the project include expanding the Digital Skills Accelerator to reach more school leavers and incorporating advanced modules in data science and AI tools. Additionally, stronger partnerships with local businesses and tech hubs will be pursued to create more internship and employment opportunities for graduates.

**Conclusion:** The Digital Skills Accelerator successfully equipped 20 young people with critical web development skills, enhancing their employability and community engagement. Through practical training and community events, participants demonstrated newfound confidence and digital literacy, opening pathways to higher education and local internships. Building on this success, the project aims to expand its reach and strengthen community partnerships, further empowering young people in Livingstone.

Final Budget Report	Project officer salary	£1,186
	Internet	£427
	Printing	£123
	Stationery	£307
	Transport	£168
	Stakeholder Meetings	£234
	Monitoring & Evaluation	£240
	Overheads	£263
Total		£2,948



Thank you for supporting our Digital Skills Accelerator! We hope we can work together again!

Lwanga Bwalya, Programmes Manager

