Kenya Connect

NGO PARTNER CASE STUDY

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Kenya Connect partners with Team4Tech to build skills for learners, foster regional connections, and scale their programs.

Supporting Education in Rural Kenya

Kenya Connect works to engage students and teachers in rural Machakos County, Kenya to succeed in the 21st century using a holistic approach that includes various technology, education, and health initiatives.

A significant challenge facing students in rural Kenyan public schools is the lack of classroom resources, including devices and internet access. As Kenya has become a technology leader in East Africa, the digital divide has grown in rural communities. The Kenyan Ministry of Education (MOE)'s current Competency-Based Curriculum also presents challenges, as it does not account for a lack of access to devices, or reliable electricity and internet. Further, many teachers in rural areas have no computing background or training, and the MOE and Teacher Service Commission have not always supported teacher training—which makes implementing the curriculum difficult.

Kenya Connect partners with over 50 primary and 13 secondary public schools serving approximately 18,000 students to help them succeed regardless of location or income level. At the outset of their work, many teachers were skeptical about implementing Kenya Connect programming as they did not have a computing background or the devices in their schools.
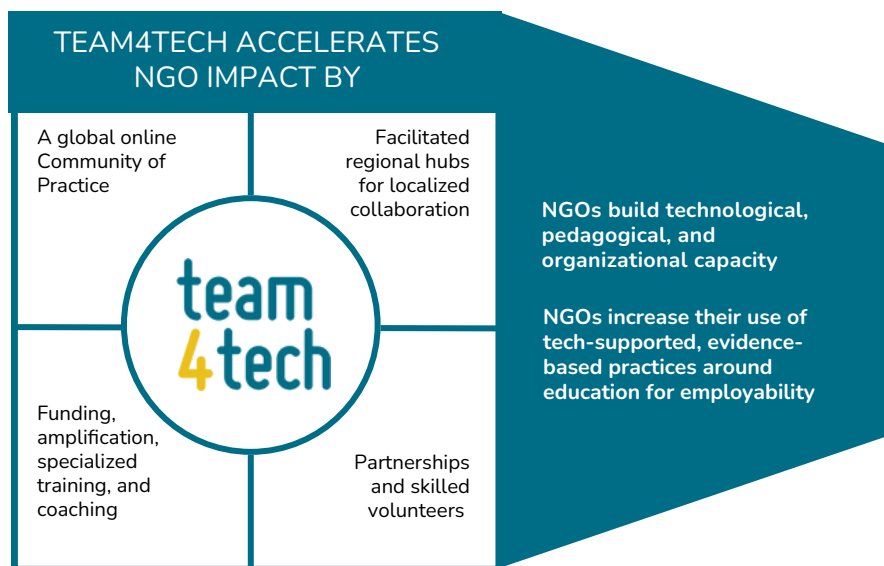
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Exemplifying Our Theory of Change

TEAM4TECH ACCELERATES NGO IMPACT BY

A global online Community of Practice

Facilitated regional hubs for localized collaboration

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Funding, amplification, specialized training, and coaching

Partnerships and skilled volunteers

NGOs build technological, pedagogical, and organizational capacity

NGOs increase their use of tech-supported, evidence-based practices around education for employability

TEAM4TECH'S THEORY OF CHANGE

OUTCOMES FOR NGOS

✓ **Educator growth**

✓ **Learner engagement**

✓ **Learner growth**

✓ **Organizational sustainability and scale**

Enable millions of learners to demonstrate digital readiness, master foundational skills, and acquire employability skills that will contribute to their lifelong economic opportunity.

(SDG 4)

These outcomes empower NGOs with the agency and sustainability to impact their regional educational ecosystems on a wider scale than Team4Tech could alone—what we call "lighthouses of learning."
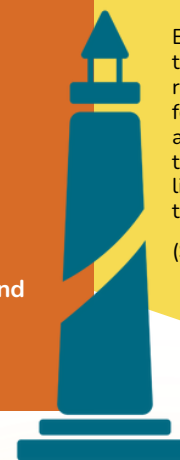
Team4Tech supports our partner NGOs to achieve goals advancing educator and learner growth, learner engagement, and organizational sustainability and scale. These positive outcomes help NGOs expansively impact their regional educational ecosystems, enabling millions of learners to demonstrate digital readiness, master foundational skills, and prepare for high-quality employment opportunities.

Kenya Connect began partnering with Team4Tech in 2021, at a critical point in their journey as an organization. They were poised to scale up their technology programs to serve the 18,000+ students in their community and were looking for support to navigate this expansion. Their primary goal for the Team4Tech partnership was to establish a Kenya Connect EdTech Hub and Makerspace, where students, teachers, and community members could develop various digital, creativity, and critical thinking skills. Kenya Connect also wanted to improve their teachers' use of technology in the classroom and foster student confidence with digital tools.

Kenya Connect has harnessed the power of Team4Tech's accelerator model, **driving lasting impact for their learners by engaging with all four elements:**

- A global online Community of Practice
- Facilitated regional hubs for localized collaboration
- Funding, amplification, specialized training, and coaching
- Partnerships and skilled volunteers

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Kenya Connect's Engagement with Team4Tech

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

- Participation in Team4Tech's Monitoring and Evaluation Course and Digital Literacy Cohort
  - Outcomes:
    - training students in Python programming
    - develop student-led coding projects
    - identifying gaps in digital inclusion
    - using checklists, learner self-assessments, and performance tasks to evaluate progress and refine teaching strategies
    - adapting instructions using Kiswahili to support language-diverse learners

Learn more about how Kenya Connect has engaged with our Community of Practice <u>on page 4</u>.

REGIONAL HUB

- Direct support from Team4Tech's Africa Regional Hub Director
- Attendance at in-person events for regional NGO partners
- Knowledge-sharing and connections with other regional NGOs, leading to new partnerships and collaborative projects.

Learn more about how Kenya Connect has engaged with our Africa Regional Hub <u>on page 5</u>.

FUNDING, AMPLIFICATION, COACHING

- $45K in grant support
- Amplification efforts on social channels, in external communication, and through events.
- Co-presenting at conferences, including the 2023 mEducation Alliance Symposium in Washington, D.C.
- Supporting special initiatives like the 2024 robotics competition team from the Mbaikini Girls school.

Learn more about how Team4Tech has supported Kenya Connect with funding, amplification, and coaching <u>on page 6.</u>

PARTNERSHIPS + VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

- Collaboration with Team4Tech and the Raspberry Pi Foundation helped Kenya Connect establish a maker lab and train 239 teachers from 50 primary schools and three secondary schools in coding education. Learn more about this partnership on <u>page 5</u>.
- Team4Tech facilitated support from Adobe volunteers to help develop Kenya Connect's EdTech hub and makerspace, as well as train staff on Adobe products, including Illustrator, Photoshop, Premiere, and Creative Cloud Express.
- Virtual volunteer support through Team4Tech's Micro-Matching Program helped Kenya Connect co-design a comprehensive digital literacy curriculum, assessment framework, and tools.

Learn more about how Team4Tech has supported Kenya Connect with partnerships and volunteer support <u>on page 7</u>.

Community of Practice

ENHANCING SKILLS THROUGH TARGETED TRAINING

Kenya Connect has engaged with many trainings, resources, and events within Team4Tech's Community of Practice to support their work.

All staff have completed Team4Tech's Monitoring and Evaluation course, and technology staff participated in the Digital Literacy Cohort. Staff applied learnings from the Digital Literacy Cohort to train students in Python programming, develop student-led coding projects, and identify gaps in digital inclusion.

Kenya Connect staff report bringing these learnings into their work and using evidence-based practices to inform learning experiences with their students.

" **Through the Community of Practice, my staff and I have learned through the workshops on emerging technologies like AI, Microsoft Apps, and Monitoring and Evaluation. We have also done courses like Design Thinking, Makerspaces, and Program Evaluation. All these resources have been helpful to the work that we do on a daily basis."**

— Patrick Munguti, Director of Education and IT, Kenya Connect

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Regional Hub

LOCALIZED RELATIONSHIPS AND CONNECTIONS

Team4Tech's Africa Regional Hub Director, based in Nairobi, supports a high-touch relationship with Kenya Connect. This tailored support and customized coaching. based on Kenya Connect's unique needs and challenges, helps them to create impact at a local level.

Facilitated by our Africa Regional Hub, Kenya Connect forged a collaboration with Nairobits, another of Team4Tech's Kenya-based NGO partners, drawing on their common goals for digital literacy and quality employment opportunities for Kenyan learners. These collaborative efforts have brought a cohort of 21 Kenya Connect students to participate in Nairobits' three-month Advanced Multimedia Program (AMP) classes at their Nairobi Campus. The training included digital literacy, graphic design, and online marketing and collaboration skills. NairoBits leveraged this connection to expand their programming to Machakos County, allowing them to reach more learners in Kenya.

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Funding, Amplification, and Coaching

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STEM CHAMPIONS

Three of Kenya Connect's students took their newly acquired skills in coding and robotics to the 2024 World Robot Olympiad competition in Nairobi and won. The Mbaikini Girls Robotics Team then continued on to compete in the International World Robot Olympiad in Turkey. Team4Tech brought Kenya Connect together with Google Kenya to further support skill development for their students.

Watch our video about their inspiring story.

RESOURCES TO DRIVE IMPACT

Team4Tech has supported Kenya Connect with $45K in grant funding, which has been used to:

- Strengthen tech capacity with new Chromebooks, desktop computers, Adobe software, and Lego kits. These all contribute to Kenya Connect's long-term goals of increasing teachers' usage of technology in the classroom and fostering digital creativity for students.
- Improve internet infrastructure with routers and internet bundles, allowing teachers to use technology more frequently in the classroom.
- Lead teacher training and workshops, building teachers' digital skills for adoption of classroom technology.

SHARING WHAT WORKS

Team4Tech provides coaching opportunities through our Community of Practice and amplifies Kenya Connect's successes on our social channels, in external communication, and through events. Team4Tech honored Kenya Connect as our NGO partner of the year in 2023 at our Annual Lighthouses of Learning Impact Celebration.

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Partnerships and Skilled Volunteer Support

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE PARTNER COLLABORATION: KENYA CONNECT AND RASPBERRY PI FOUNDATION

To accelerate impact for Kenya Connect, Team4Tech collaborated with the Raspberry Pi Foundation (RPF), a UK-based organization supporting young people to realize their full potential through the power of computing and digital technologies. An RPF team helped Kenya Connect in establishing a maker lab and training 239 teachers from 50 primary schools and three secondary schools in coding education. The trained teachers were able to teach over 10,000 students on digital literacy and coding with Scratch, and implement coding clubs in 47 partner schools.

🎬 *Watch our video to see Team4Tech's collaboration with Raspberry Pi Foundation and Kenya Connect in action*

SKILLED VOLUNTEERING SUPPORT FROM ADOBE AND CADENCE DESIGN SYSTEMS

Through strategic pro bono projects, Design for Impact workshops, and micro-matching support in our Community of Practice, Team4Tech skilled volunteers from Cadence Design Systems and Adobe have supported Kenya Connect in:

- Launching the Kenya Connect makerspace and the Isaac Minae EdTech Hub
- Helping teachers, Kenya Connect staff, and students in developing digital literacy skills, including training in Adobe programs.
- Developing a curriculum around 3D printing for 12 to 15-year-olds.
- Offering a weeklong bootcamp for 50 primary school learners. The majority of participating students had never used a computer before and were able to do physical computing by the end of the week.

TEAM4TECH CONTRIBUTIONS AND COLLABORATIONS

3
skilled volunteering projects

83
pro bono consultants

875+
pro bono hours committed

$183,000
value of pro bono consulting

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Kenya Connect leads a wide range of programs creating opportunities for technology-driven learning. Their goals for these programs include:

- Supporting children to successfully complete the school technology curriculum
- Helping teachers integrate technology in teaching and learning
- Providing schools with improved access to the technology they need
- Introducing coding, robotics, and 3D printing in schools

Team4Tech's accelerator programming supports all of these technology goals and helps Kenya Connect make a bigger impact for more learners. Student-created projects have become a cornerstone of learning. From building games to participating in national competitions, learners are not just absorbing content, they are creating with it.

Through their deep engagement with all the elements of Team4Tech's accelerator programming, Kenya Connect is achieving positive outcomes in learner growth, educator growth, learner engagement, and organizational sustainability and scale. They are sharing their learnings and best practices with other education-focused NGOs in Team4Tech's Community of Practice and within the Kenyan education ecosystem, forging new partnerships, and establishing themselves as a lighthouse of learning in Kenya.

KENYA CONNECT REPORTS THAT:

18,000 students

participate in their programs annually.

2,248 students

have participated in their Computers in the Classroom Program, which offers hands-on, interactive exercises teaching a range of computer skills from basic computing, word processing, and internet access to more advanced skills like coding in Scratch.

113 students

participated in robotics and coding bootcamps in the past year.

62 schools

are working with Kenya Connect to offer coding clubs to their learners.

REACH OUT
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