

Rising Hope Girls Educational Foundation, Nigeria

GENERATIVE AI COHORT CASE STUDY

team4tech

AI USE CASE: AI TO IMPROVE CLASSROOM PRACTICE, PERSONALIZED ADAPTIVE LEARNING

More than 70% of learners in Nigeria attend schools in rural communities. In these schools, educators often face significant challenges, including overcrowded classrooms and very few textbooks and learning materials. These conditions make it incredibly difficult for teachers to prepare quality lesson plans and conduct effective assessments that accurately measure student learning. The result is a cycle where teachers are overburdened, and students may not receive the personalized attention they need to succeed. Rising Hope Girls Educational Foundation was motivated to break this cycle by empowering teachers with tools that can enhance their capacity and improve learning outcomes.

Cohort-Based Learning Supports RHGE in AI Implementation

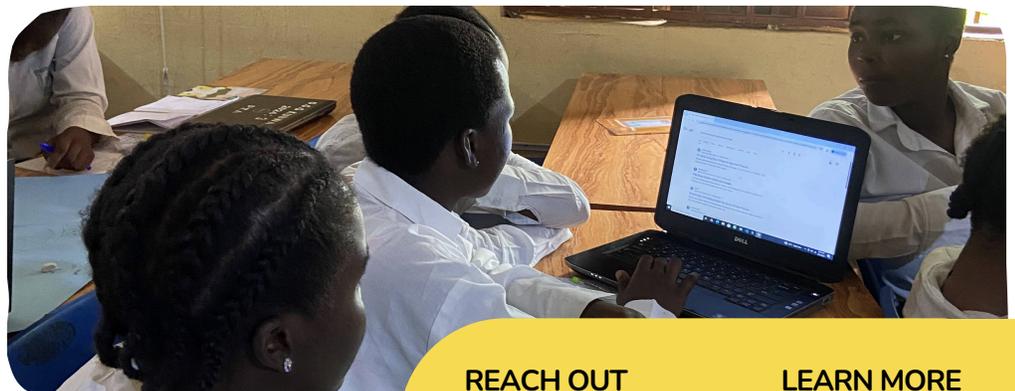
Team4Tech is an impact accelerator, building technical and pedagogical capacity for non-governmental organization (NGO) staff and educators so that they can prepare their learners for high-quality employment in the knowledge economy.

As AI rapidly advances, Team4Tech recognizes the pressing need to support local NGOs as they seek to leverage this new technology to improve teaching and learning, as well as their own operational efficiency. Team4Tech has made significant investments to ensure that NGO staff and educators are not left behind in the AI revolution in education and to promote ethical representation of NGO voices and experiences in AI tool development.

We are leading various AI accelerator programs for education-focused NGOs, supporting them with expert coaching and technology grants as they develop their AI implementation strategies.

With funding from the Ezrah Charitable Trust, Team4Tech is leading a three-year project (2024-2027) for education-focused NGOs in Africa to build knowledge of AI tools for education-focused NGOs and support the application of Generative AI tools for more cost-efficient and effective program delivery. This work supports three annual cohorts of 10 Africa-based NGOs with expert AI training, coaching, grant funding, and technology tools. NGOs develop their own AI implementation plans over the course of the cohort. After the cohort, they receive an implementation grant and ongoing coaching from Team4Tech experts in the region.

When RHGE joined our 2025 learning cohort, they had already begun experimenting with generative AI tools among their own team members, but they also wanted to promote responsible AI use in their work with teachers. They aimed to help their teachers embrace AI tools with an open mind, use AI responsibly and ethically in their classrooms, and leverage AI tools to improve efficiency and instruction. Through the cohort training, Team4Tech supported them to test out this innovation.



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The AI Innovation

RHGE's innovation focuses on an AI-supported teacher empowerment program. The foundation trains its educators to use Generative AI tools for three core tasks:

- 1 Lesson Planning
- 2 Content Planning
- 3 Personalized Assessments

Teachers can now use AI to generate tailored, localized lesson content that resonates with their students. Additionally, the AI helps create customized rubrics and quizzes to more effectively check for understanding and measure learning outcomes. This AI innovation is a tool for teachers, helping them become more efficient and effective educators.

In addition to the teacher empowerment program, RHGE also designed and piloted ReadBuddy, a localised AI reading companion designed for under-resourced schools. ReadBuddy was built to address a specific classroom problem: how to support early-grade English reading fluency in environments where teachers cannot offer one-on-one feedback to every student.

Rather than replacing teachers or introducing complex dashboards, ReadBuddy functions as a voice-based reading companion. Students read aloud from culturally relevant story sets. The tool listens, flags mispronunciations, identifies difficult words, and generates simple, personalised reading reports that highlight accuracy and fluency gaps.



Implementation

The implementation process was designed with the teacher at its center. RHGE began by identifying a cohort of enthusiastic educators for initial training and piloting. The training focused not just on the technical "how-to" of using the AI tools, but also on the pedagogical "why." Teachers learned to use the AI to supplement their own expertise, generating creative lesson ideas and refining assessment methods. The initial pilot helped to refine the training materials and identify best practices for using the AI to meet the specific needs of Nigerian schools.



OBSTACLES	HOW RHGE ADDRESSED THE CHALLENGES
<p>Teacher Adoption and Capacity One of the main challenges RHGE experienced was overcoming the initial skepticism and technical barriers to AI use. Some teachers, unfamiliar with AI, were hesitant to adopt the new tools.</p>	<p>Teacher confidence is the real multiplier. AI adoption succeeds when educators feel supported. RHGE trained teachers that they need to exercise careful review of AI-generated content to ensure that it is relevant and appropriate.</p>
<p>Localizing AI for Nigerian Classrooms It is challenging to ensure that the AI-generated content is culturally and contextually appropriate for the Nigerian educational system.</p>	<p>This important work requires ongoing oversight by the teachers themselves. AI is a powerful assistant, but it requires human guidance to meet this need.</p>
<p>Adapting AI to Low-Resource Environments As AI tools become embedded in global education systems, there is a real danger that teachers and students in under-resourced contexts are excluded not just from new technology, but from the ability to shape how that technology is used.</p>	<p>AI applications must be designed around local realities, pedagogical needs, and infrastructural constraints. RHGE prioritized localization in their design of ReadBuddy to meet this need. Built on a GPT 3.5 language model layer, the tool integrates speech recognition, natural language processing, and adaptive feedback to support children's reading fluency. ReadBuddy also works within low-bandwidth conditions and existing classroom routines rather than requiring schools to reorganise around technology.</p>

The key lesson learned from RHGE's experience is that AI's greatest value is in augmenting human capacity, not replacing it. By providing teachers with the tools to reduce their workload and improve their effectiveness, the program has created a scalable model for professional development. It demonstrates that with the right training and support, technology can become a powerful ally for educators in low-resource settings. RHGE's experience designing ReadBuddy also demonstrated how constraints drive innovation—limited infrastructure, large class sizes, and linguistic diversity forced disciplined design choices to create a clearer, usable tool. Further, RHGE's emphasis on localization shows how AI tools are most effective when matched and designed around specific learning bottlenecks rather than enthralling technology capabilities.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

"This AI training has increased my efficiency and productivity. [With the training's] accuracy, precision, innovation, and improvement, now I can support my students using AI for lesson plans and lesson notes. Using AI in the area of charts and images can help my teaching."

—YOHANNE SAMUEL, GSS KUBWA



Looking Toward the Future

Early results of RHGE's AI initiatives have been immediate and impactful. About 200 teachers have participated in the AI program, directly impacting more than 1,000 learners. More importantly, teachers supported by the AI tools are spending approximately 50% less time on administrative tasks like lesson planning, allowing them to dedicate more time to engaging directly with students in the classroom. The use of personalized assessments is also having a powerful effect on learning equity. By using AI-generated rubrics, teachers can now identify struggling learners earlier and provide targeted support, ensuring that no student falls through the cracks. This is a direct step towards achieving SDG 4 on quality education.

Early results of the ReadBuddy pilot are similarly exciting—RHGE's pilot data shows that within six weeks, reading accuracy among 1,200 students improved by 25%. Their teachers also reported higher engagement, particularly among students who had previously hesitated to read aloud. Teachers began using reading data to inform instruction. Students engaged more consistently with practice, supported by immediate, non-judgmental feedback.

RHGE reports securing significant funding (₦5,000,000) from the Department of Research Project Centre through the Ford Foundation, and they are leveraging part of that funding to create two digital labs supporting AI literacy in Dutse Alhaji and Byazhin. Their journey to implement AI initiatives earned a feature in the International Telecommunications Union's AI for Good Interim Report, exemplifying AI innovation among a selection of 160 use cases from around the world.

RHGE aims to scale its AI literacy program and ReadBuddy Pilot to reach more teachers and students across Nigeria. This effort to scale will be supported by RHGE's recent award from the AWS Education Equity Initiative of \$10,000 (USD) of AWS credit. The long-term implication of this work is significant: it provides a blueprint for strengthening teacher capacity nationwide. By using AI to address foundational challenges like lesson planning and assessment, these initiatives have the potential to directly advance global efforts to improve education quality and equity in lower- and middle-income countries.

