



Jiamini

Computer Project

Jiamini

Computer Project

For many years, we sent our graduates to a computer course. In the months after finishing high school, our graduates learn basic computer literacy like email, making a CV and doing online research. These are essential skills, not (yet) taught in public schools. For most of our graduates, this is the first time they use a computer.

After this course, our grads are welcomed to the Jiamini office to use our facilities assisted by our staff, finding further studying options, improving their CV or writing applications, either for education opportunities, internships or jobs.

The Problem

This course was not good enough; the level of teaching was too low, the facility was not satisfactory and the teachers sometimes didn't show up, demotivating our kids. We had been looking for an alternative, but in Newala, there is none. With the support of partner **UConnect** we have found an amazing solution...





We decided to create **our own computer center**, improving the quality and reaching more people in Newala, where computer literacy is minimal. To realize this, we need a good facility. These are hard to find in Newala. The school where we have our office offered to give us this little building, free of rent, to use as we like. It has not been used for years, looks like it's falling apart, but instead of an eyesore, we saw **an opportunity**. Clearly, a lot of work was needed to transform this former classroom into a center of computer-excellence, and that is exactly what we did!

Basics

We hired local craftsmen (called *fundi* in Tanzania) to put on a new roof, repair the walls and floor, give the inside and outside of the building a fresh coat of paint, and repair the windows.

Next we installed electricity, a wooden and a metal door, as well as metal bars in the windows, for security at night.

Other *fundi* were hired to make tables for the computers and restore broken school benches, donated by the school.

In line with Jiamini policy, every dollar we spend adds to the local economy as much as possible.

Of course we cannot teach computer classes without computers and teachers! Jiamini partner *Uconnect* donated several computers, which two of our more entrepreneurial graduates had already been using to teach classes in computer literacy from their homes. They now get the chance to build their own computer school.

Jiamini



Meet Hamza and Frank.

Frank (r) and Hamza (l) were always rather tech-savvy; after graduating from high school as Jiamini scholars, they went into the phone-money and voucher business. Using *Uconnect* computers they were already teaching some computer classes from their homes.

They had the dream to have their own computer school someday, a dream shared by Jiamini and made possible with the support of several generous donors and our partner *Uconnect*.

The new set-up gives all Newala people access to computer training, while Frank and Hamza make a living with a two-month course we designed together with Jiamini Director Brad, who is an IT professional in Australia. The first group of students are the 2017 Jiamini graduates, while many other people have shown interest in taking the course.

Hamza and Frank will run this project, assisted by the Jiamini team.

Jiamini





Our computer room today; with a new roof, walls and floor repaired, and a fresh paint job. Electricity has been installed and we keep a small generator for power-cuts during classes. We are now looking into options for a solar power system, and possibly adding a few more computers. We also use a projector to show parts of classes on the wall.



The inside of our computer room, before renovation

The inside of our computer room today



Jiamini

