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HIGHLIGHTS

- **102,816** students given access to e-learning technology (ELT)
- **8** new partnerships providing **112** computers to Ghana, Lebanon, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia
- **5** e-Learning labs to schools giving access to quality education to **5,006** students
- Improved use of ICT - **50%** of students are using a computer on their own in our e-Learning labs
- Effective use of ICT - **43%** of our e-Learning labs using computers for non-ICT subjects
- **3,607** users given access to digital skills and services in Gloucestershire
- **104** volunteers supported our work in the UK

**Computers to Africa = 3,216**
KENYA

We sent our first shipment to new partners the Naivasha Technical Training Centre (NTTI) in September 2017. The NTTI provides vocational training for young people in Naivasha and supports a large number of homeless children with their education. We supported a female student Naomi Githinji, who had dropped out of her ICT Diploma course due to lack of funds. Naomi comes from a family of 17 and she will now be able finish her Diploma next year.

MALAWI

We introduced a support programme for schools struggling to purchase computers; the Starter Pack Scheme provides 10 computers for schools that have no equipment. This year we provided 60 computers to 6 schools. Continuing with the success of our e-Learning lab projects, we installed 4 labs at Ngumbe Community Day School, Liwonde Community Day School, St Anthony Community Day Secondary School and the CFMS Training Lab, with a total of 121 computers.
ZAMBIA

Demand fell in part due to the cholera outbreak in 2017 and overstocking from the previous year. To help boost sales we introduced an incentive (Buy One Get One) scheme to support schools that had none or few IT facilities for students to learn practical computer studies. The scheme has been extremely successful, we supported 81 schools with 213 computers. We installed a new e-Learning lab at Lilanda Basic School, a primary school with 31 computers, to improve the IT facilities for its 2,517 students.

ZIMBABWE

In its second year the programme is developing well, focusing on providing technical support to schools with the installation of computers as well as training teachers on how to get the most from the educational materials on the computers. We install as standard a suite of educational resources that can be accessed offline by students and teachers.
We recognise there are areas of poverty in our own county, Gloucestershire, where people are unable to access IT and the benefits that it may bring them. We set up an IT outreach programme to bridge the inequality of access to technology and training in digital skills and services in Gloucestershire. We have provided 82 computers to 15 deserving community organisations and can see that the work is already having a very positive impact.

Prison Programme

The programme has run very well throughout the year and is an integral part to the running and success of IT Schools Africa. 3,058 computers were fully refurbished and sent to our ITSA workshop for the loading of Windows 10. We are indebted to the help and support of the prisoners and staff at who all carry out such an important role for us.

Volunteer Programme

Throughout the year we welcomed 104 volunteers to whom we are immensely grateful. Without their care and dedication it would have been impossible to complete the various programmes undertaken. We work alongside organisations running back-to-work programmes which provide work experience placements for the long-term unemployed including Prospect Training, the Job Centre and The Prince’s Trust. As a new initiative we set up Corporate Volunteer Days and were joined by 19 volunteers from IHS Markit HIS who volunteered an amazing 150 hours with us in the year.

We received over 6,500 computers and laptops during the financial year. It is becoming much more challenging to receive equipment donations of use to IT Schools Africa. Schools are holding on to their equipment for much longer because of cutbacks and businesses are also holding on to their equipment for longer as a result of economic uncertainty and increased worries about data security. We have also become more selective on the equipment we accept as we aim to receive PCs no older than six years which can take Windows 10 and we want to give the pcs and laptops as much life as possible for the schools in Africa. In May 2018 we formally teamed up with Commercial Group who launched their IT with a Conscience programme; promoting the work we do with their customers and encouraging them to donate their old IT equipment to us.
Lucy Pollock, General Manager

We are pleased with our progress towards our goal of developing new partnerships with other charities to increase our impact across Africa and to other countries. We are delighted to have completed 5 e-Learning labs in Malawi and Zambia, significantly improving the student computer share ratios. We are pleased that more schools are benefitting from the e-learning resources ITSA provides improving their digital skills whilst supporting their studies in other subjects.

We developed our UK Programme during the year, with the introduction of the Gloucestershire IT Outreach Programme. Providing good quality IT equipment in easily accessible and nonthreatening environments is a means of bringing people together and helps to build communities. I’d like to thank all our volunteers, who have worked with us at our Head Office in Cheltenham and at HMP Whitemoor, Cardiff and Eastwood Park. My thanks also to our donors who have given their time, equipment and support in furthering our work in Africa and the UK.

Michael Ratcliffe MBE, Chair

I am pleased with the progress IT Schools Africa has made during this last year despite the challenges which have been faced, particularly in Zambia. The charity continues to remain resilient and has been able to identify several new opportunities, working in partnership with organisations and developing its UK Programme. The fact that the charity has been able to improve the lives of over 102,000 students during the year is testimony to the charity’s success.

The trustees and management are committed to embedding the new strategic goals into all activities, in addition to structuring a more robust system for measuring the charity’s impact. It looks forward to reviewing the results during the next year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who is engaged with ITSA, both employees and volunteers and the board of trustees in the UK. Also our wonderful partners in Africa for their passion and dedication in making ITSA’s e-learning vision a successful reality.

RESULTS

TOTAL INCOME GENERATED £226,291

We secured repeat funding for our IT Lab Projects as well as grants from new donors for our incentive schemes in Africa, helping more schools gain access to computers for the first time. It is important the charity maintains a balance of restricted and unrestricted funding to meet its objectives.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £265,507

Spending on the charity’s activities includes expenditure on the safe delivery and effective use of the equipment in Africa and ensuring that the charity meets compliance regulations. It also includes the restricted funds spent on the charity’s projects as well as its charitable activities in the UK.

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Charitable activities 97%

Fundraising activities 3%

Trading activities 16%

Unrestricted funds 35%

Restricted funds 49%
Challenges

- Not enough qualified ICT teachers and a lack of confidence among non-trained teachers to teach basic ICT. We are dedicated to providing programmes to deliver basic ICT courses to teachers, focusing on effective usage and lesson planning.

- Power cuts are extremely disruptive to timetabled lessons. We continue to raise awareness to highlight the issue, advocating the local authorities in the countries we work.

- Poor connectivity and expensive Internet services remain an issue where we work in Africa. We seek collaborative partnerships to address the problem and find solutions to help support our projects.

- Lack of ICT specific books for schools. We are actively seeking donations of ICT books for our projects and the schools that we work with.

Our 2021 Goals

- Increase the number of teachers and school students using the ITSA e-learning package to its full potential

- Improved access to digital skills and services for more disadvantaged people

- To advocate and raise awareness to help schools access affordable, reliable power and internet services

- To engage the Ministry of Education in the countries we work to recognise the value of ELT