



DIGITAL LEARNING EMPOWERMENT

Wajir Smart Learning WASLE - Extension Project 2023

Project Overview	
Project Name	DIGITAL LEARNING EMPOWERMENT
Project Location	Wajir, northern Kenya
National Office	Wajir, Nairobi
Project Partners	WASLE CBO, wiLearn 4 Life
Primary Sector	Education
Secondary Sector	Life Skills - Resilience
Start date of project	01. January 2023
Duration	24 Months
Planned Completion date of project	31.December.2024
Project Coordination Office	Wajir, Kenya
# direct beneficiaries	4560 vulnerable children and 200 teachers
# indirect beneficiaries	90'000 inhabitant of Wajir
Local Contact Person	Dalmas Adongo; dalmasadongo@gmail.com
Proposed Total Budget	49,800 USD
Date of submission	30.11.2022
Contact Person wiLearn	Roland Diethelm
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SUMMARY

Wajir Smart Learning (WASLE) is a registered community based organisation (CBO) located in Wajir County, Northern part of Kenya. Our main goal is to empower the marginalised community through digital literacy. The family clans with a strong pastoralist background realise the great benefits of mobile learning opportunities. Since the beginning in January 2022, the WASLE team with its currently 13 members has reached out to over 1,000 learners both in schools and at their homes by providing free access to digital multimedia learning materials. This has helped the community accept digital learning as a tool to enhance education, and foster peace building amongst the diverse members of the Wajir community through relevant digital content.

WASLE plans to reach over 4,560 beneficiaries through smart mobile learning in the next two years and beyond in a self-sustainable manner. Currently, the CBO relies on just one moLLi case (mobile Learning Lab interactive) with one portable library, 10 tablets and a projector to reach the curious children's crowd craving for new information and knowledge. The achievements made by the CBO in the year 2022 were made possible by the tremendous support from wiLearn 4 Life and the host institutions who have provided equipment and a working space and office for free. The CBO members who sustain themselves through other means have done most of the mobile learning sessions on a volunteer basis to the beneficiaries. This limits the reach to even beneficiary institutions (such as schools). With scarce resources and the little revenue generated, it is not enough to cover basic expenses such as transport to the venues. The response and the demand from schools, families and various other people groups has been overwhelming and so was the support cost. To meet this educational needs of thousands more children, youth and elders and making this vital services to the pastoralist communities around Wajir sustainable, we herewith propose the empowerment expansion project.

With adequate funding resources, our CBO can build a strong mobile teaching workforce to reach the larger population and especially the most vulnerable who require the extracurricular support.

The WASLE objective is to extend our current capacity and to increase the regional impact of mobile learning. Herewith we propose the SMART LEARNING Empowerment Project which will enable five (5) additional mobile teaching units. Each teaching team shall be equipped with their own smart learning equipment, to create regular, safe & conducive learning environments in key locations across Wajir County. At the heart of the capacity building is a central teacher-training and digital content authoring lab in Wajir. To assure continuity and support our association is also planning to add a sales point for mobile Information and Communication Technology combined with a digital service center offering training and working facilities. These services shall contribute to a sustainable Smart Learning environment in the Wajir region. In collaboration with institutions WASLE seeks to establish service level agreements to compensate for regular travel and teaching expenses. From revenues collected, a digital learning fund will be established to cater for replacement of vital mobile gadgets and other operating expenses.

The CBO's strives to establish a business model making mobile teaching units self sustainable through revenue generating services. These will not only ensure continuity of the interventions beyond the initial funding, but also inculcate the community ownership and overall goodwill of the project by the members of Wajir community and the local government.

Project Background

Wajir Smart Learning (WASLE) is a community based organisation (CBO) located in Wajir County, Northern part of Kenya, an arid area prone to drought. WASLE CBO was registered on 18. Jan 2022 to empower the marginalised Wajir community through digital literacy. Prior to the CBO's registration, the founders have been working with the local schools, churches and Community radio specially during the Covid 19 pandemic to build a strong network with relevant institutions to enable the marginalised population to access education through mobile learning. Traditionally, these communities have been conservative and not keen on formal education. The level of education in Wajir is lower than that in other regions in Kenya.

Since its inception in 2022 the WASLE CBO has reached out to over 1,000 learners both in schools and at their homes. We are providing free access to digital information. Thus the community has welcomed and accepted digital learning recognising the vital role it can play in education. With its relevant content the wiFi library is also fostering peace building amongst the diverse members of the Wajir community. All this has been achieved with just one solar powered moLLi Case (mobile learning lab interactive) donated by wiLearn 4 Life, and immense volunteerism by the 13 WASLE CBO members.



Problem Statement

Currently, the CBO relies on just one MoLLi kit to reach its target beneficiaries. The achievements made by the CBO in the year 2022 were made possible by the tremendous support from wiLearn 4 Life and the host institution who have provided equipment, working space and an office for free.



However, with the limited resources to date the WASLE CBO has not been able to meet the demand of the many families in need of basic literacy and education. Most of the mobile learning sessions to these beneficiaries have been done on a volunteer basis by the CBO members who sustain themselves through other means. The hardware and staff constraints limits the reach to beneficiary institutions such as schools who are even willing to compensate the CBO for training its staff. The small revenue has not been sufficient to cover basic expenses of the services rendered such as transport to the venue.

Because the education infrastructure in this part of the country is poor and the digital gap in Wajir is wide we seek You as a trusted partner to build the bridges to quality education and effective eLearning together.

Project Description

We believe well educated people will contribute to a more resilient community becoming less vulnerable to disasters due to a combination of personal factors, environmental factors and the increased life skills to recover.

Goal and target Beneficiaries

The **Smart Learning Extension Project** will in the coming 2 years empower 4560 family members from marginalised communities around Wajir through digital literacy and mobile learning materials. Pastoralists of all ages will access quality education material and learn how to apply mobile learning principles to increase their knowledge and life skills.

Objective 1: Reach most vulnerable families with special education needs

The modular expansion plan is based on 5 additional teaching units. With every additional Smart Learning teaching unit we focus our service in a specific area thus reaching a group of up to 900 additional learners. Strategically it is crucial to target and prioritise persons/households who are most vulnerable. The modular expansion will emphasise on targeting geographically, and within those identified areas, selecting the most deprived based on a vulnerability analysis that looks at personal factors within a household and the household's capacity to recover. WASLE CBO has conducted a **vulnerability analysis** and identified learners from poor backgrounds who have no learning resources like others and the teenagers who have dropped out of school due to various reasons.

Objective 2: Enhance digital media competencies among teachers, pupils and out of school youth leading to an applied Competency Based Curriculum required by the Kenya Government.

A Smart Learning Center will be established in Wajir to facilitate Open Education Resource OER training for teachers in the Wajir region. The CBO will establish and run an ICT Service and Training center. The center will also offer digital services to the public to promote education for all. Such engagement will also generate income to cover some operating costs.

Objective 3: Develop and integrate locally adapted learning content for the digital library

At the smart learning center WASLE will use the practical training sessions to further develop the local offline library content. A special focus will be put on curriculum relevant content as well as the support for peace, social coherence, life skills, environmental protection and animal husbandry.

Objective 4: Provide Smart Phone and ICT Sales and Support for institutions and the general public.

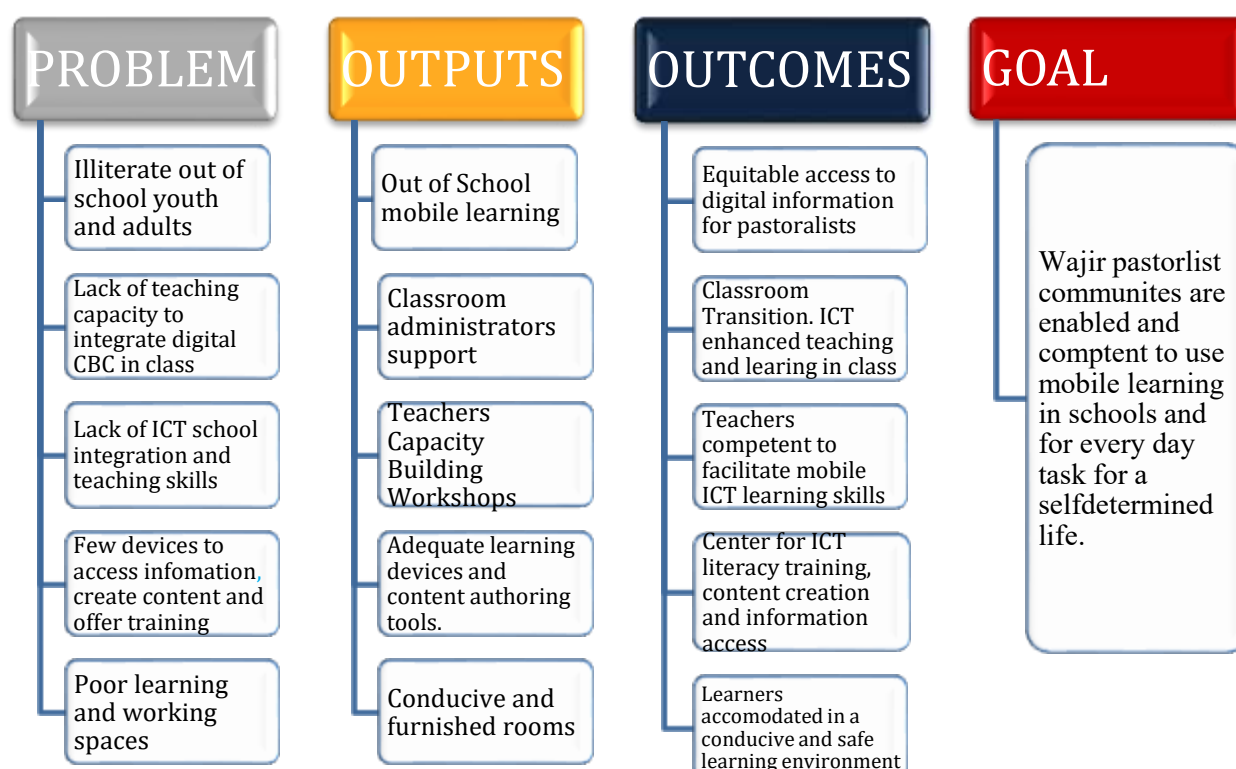
As a sustainable community support in a growing digital job market we plan to offer mobile phones, tablets and other Smart Learning technical equipment combined with a service and repair shop. This outlet will have a limited selection of quality equipment for sale that is suitable for self-oriented learning in an offline environment. Regular training and community events will enable out of school youth and adults to interact and learn from each other.



WASLE CBO is looking for financial support to acquire additional smart learning equipment, enable content authoring and teacher training, create a safe & conducive learning environment and cover basic expenses.

With a solid foundation of equipment and trained staff the CBO's goal for self-sustenance will be achieved beyond the project duration. Through practical ways the CBO can generate revenue while serving the community. This will not only ensure continuity of the interventions beyond the initial funding, but also inculcate the community ownership and overall goodwill of the project by the members of Wajir community and the local government.

Theory of Change



National Education Sector Strategic Plan

The mission of Kenya's National Education Sector Strategic Plan (2018 - 2022) is to provide, promote and coordinate competency based equitable learner centred education and training for sustainable development. Digital media competency as the gateway to the economic sector and a prerequisite in today's job market is an integral part of the new Competency Based Curriculum (CBC). In line with this, WASLE CBO plans to improve access and equity through technologies and mobile learning, improve the education quality and relevance by offering high quality digital resources and competency based curriculum content, and ensure effective education management, governance and accountability through the various sustainable income generating activities.

SDG4 - More Equality in Quality Education for All

WASLE CBO has collaborated with wiLearn 4 Life, a charitable organisation that stands in the gap of the digital divide in underserved communities. As part of this education initiative, learners and community members of Wajir will access a digital library in offline environments with curriculum and life skills relevant content at zero cost. No Internet connectivity is needed. The platform is powered with solar energy and batteries to operate up to five (5) hours per day without electricity. This is crucial due to the mobile nature of the program, especially while reaching the community members away from the technology centre.

ORGANISATION

The governing body of Wajir Smart Learning (WASLE) Community Based Organisation is the Board of Trustees, referred to as the Board. It has seven (7) voting members. The Board constitutes itself and selects its own officers. A position in the Board is permanent for a period of five (5) years, unless a member resigns, dies or is asked to resign by 2/3 rule. The positions in the Board are the Chairperson, Assistant Chairperson, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Project Coordinator and a public member. The Board sets policies having to do with the objectives of the organisation. The Board also promotes or publicises the Organisation in order to solicit for funds, gifts in kind and in keeping with the objectives of the Organisation.

WASLE CBO is collaborating with wiLearn 4 Life to fundraise, execute a sustainability initiative geared towards making the CBO independent, and achieve its vision of reaching as many beneficiaries as possible in Wajir through smart mobile learning. wiLearn Kenya will assist in project monitoring, technical support, and auditing. For purposes of supervising this project, the Board will form a Smart Learning Steering Committee comprised of the following members:

1. One representative of WASLE and one of wiLearn
2. Two representatives from the community
3. One Project coordinator

The steering committee will convene meetings minimum two times per year to assure adequate project coordination and communication takes place to reach defined milestones and objectives. Meeting minutes shall be taken to reflect project progress, pending issues, action points, lessons learnt and budget/expenditure accounts.

Competencies

The Smart Learning project implementation team under the leadership of the project coordinator is appointed by the Steering committee. It comprises competent and experienced personnel for each project task, including project management, smart mobile teaching and training, pedagogy and technical support. The portfolio of each team member is stipulated separately. Proper consideration has been done to ensure separation of duties, oversight and avoiding conflicts of interest.

Risk & Mitigation

Risk	Mitigation
Electricity outage	Solar Power
ICT equipment damage or failure	Proper storage, regular reporting agreements, responsible handling and timely technical support
ICT equipment theft	Reinforced office doors & windows and community watch
Underutilization of new equipment	Regular reporting agreement, training and support on the use of Smart Learning equipment

Budget Summary - 5 Teacher Unit Extension

WASLE DIGITAL LEARNING EMPOWERMENT (scalable)			
Item	Description	Teacher Unit	TOTAL
Mobile Learning Equipment	MoLLi Kit complete, incl library server, wiFi projector, screen, 10 tablets	4900	24600
Logistics Transport	wiLearn equipment from Nairobi to Wajir	200	1000
Msingipack Software	Licenced to Virtual Essence – Grade 1-8	600	3000
Workshops & Training	Smart Teaching Workshops	800	4000
Travel compensation	2 Teachers daily travel mobile schools	1600	8000
wiLearn Tech Expert	4 Semi Annual visits	600	2400
CBO Office	Utilities and Infrastructure service & security	200	1800
Project Coordination	Finance & Reporting	1100	5000
Total USD		10,000	49,800



DIGITAL LIBRARY AND LEARNING LAB (ALL IN ONE)

The **mobile learning lab interactive (moLLi)** provides a state of the art ICT platform for digital skills development. All equipment can be operated with batteries and solar power independent from the grid. All content is adaptable to suit the local interests. wiLearn empowers communities that lack a functional learning infrastructure.

For more info visit: www.wilearn.org

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

wiLearn IIAB Library: wiFi Server 1TB SSD with Linux XFCE Interface

OER2GO: + 100 education modules incl. Kolibri, KA, Wikipedia...

wiView Projector: wiFi portable Android 6.0, 32 GB, BT Sound, Battery, USB, SDcard

Accessories : Remote, BT Mouse, BT Keyboard, Table-Tripod

10 Learner Tablets: 10in Android | 2GB / 32GB with Silikon Protectors

USB Charging: 10 Port USB Charging Industrial Unit (max 1.5 A)

Power AC Adapter: 180W / Input 110-230 VAC, Output 19 VDC

Solar Panel: 120W foldable ETFE Solar Panel

BT Power Monitor: Bluetooth Victron Connect Power Monitor App

Power Battery Unit: 300 Wh LiFePo4 built in accu capacity (2x150 Wh)

Pilot Case: 50x21x35 cm | 2.5 kg (Aircraft Carry On)

Cost* : 4900.00 USD





32GB
1500 ANSI

\$500



V7Pro ANDROID SMART PROJECTOR

wiView – the mobile presentation tool

Learning content via wiFi from the IIAB the Offline Community Library or directly your Smartphone.

No internet – No Problem!
No Airtime – No Cost!

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION

Memory: 2G DDR3 / 32GB SSD

1500ANSI Lumen

wiFi 2.4G/ 5.0G dual-band

Bluetooth : BT4.0

Remote Control : Infrared wireless

Focus Electric motor focussing

Standard Resolution : WVGA 1280*800

Screen 4:3 or 16:9 or 16:10

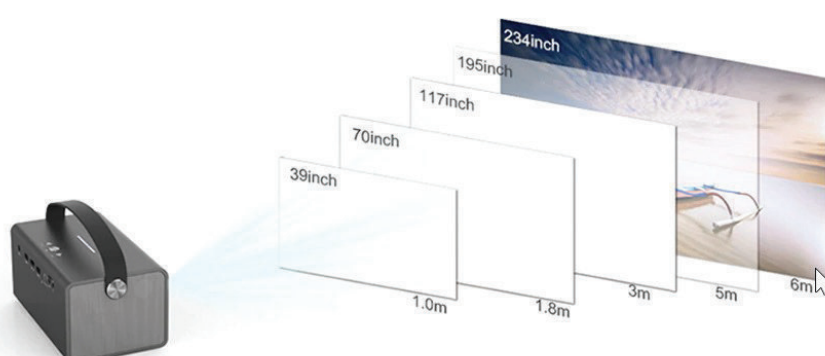
Throw Range: 30 – 300 inches

Keystone Correction: Automatic

Loudspeakers : Built-in Stereo HiFi 8W *2

PROJECTION SIZE & DISTANCE

Suggest Projection size 60-150inches at distance 0.6m~4.5m





1TB
SSD

wiLearn IIAB MiniPC - AC1 Linux Server



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION AC1-Z:

CPU: IntelCeleron J4125 QuadCore
Memory: 8G DDR4
Graphics: Intel HD Graphics
Dual band WiFi
Fanless Design
Power Consumption 10W
2xHDMI 2.0, 2xUSB3.0, MicroSD, Audio
Ethernet: Gigabit LAN
Power input:12VDC 2.5A
Dimension: 128x128x52mm
Mounting bracket, HDMI Cable



wiLearn IIAB the Offline Community Library

offers over 100 multimedia educational and library modules in various languages for free.

No internet – No Problem!
No Airtime – No Cost!

Just connect to the wiLearn WiFi signal when in range of the wiLearn Hotspot without Internet and browse through the library. Visit your educational learning site at <http://wilearn.ch>

Adaptable media is stored on the internal 1TB SSD storage. The content can be managed from any mobile device with a WiFi and a web-browser. The wiLearn IIAB Library contains a wireless hotspot that supports 50 concurrent users. Through a LAN adapter the CAP can also be integrated in a computer network and it allows direct content update and remote servicing via internet.

Create your own library shelf for school, professional development and leisure time. All common formats pdf, Word, Excel, Powerpoint, video, audio and web files are made readily available at zero cost

Connect and Prepare for life!

Deliverables / Milestones:

In **24 Months** we intent to:

1. Establish Service Level Agreements SLA with 13 schools reaching and train 200 teachers and 4,560 learners.
2. Reach 1,230 Out of School youth.
3. Reach about 60 people/community members through training on ICT skills/literacy.
4. Reaching out to churches engaging the youth and the Sunday school children. We are looking forward to reaching more than 400 youth and 1300 Sunday school children.
5. Author digital learning content for select subjects in line with Kenya's primary school curriculum and make it freely accessible.

ANNEX 1: Basic wiLearn Equipment

At the heart of all is relevant OER content. The Offline Digital Library has been adapted to local content and context is accessible at no cost for the learner and can be switched online.

www.wilearn.ch

ANNEX 2: WASLE Pictures Year 2022



WASLE reaching out to the learners at their homes



WASLE reaching out to the learners at their homes



WASLE reaching out to the learners in School



WASLE reaching out to the learners in School



The passion of serving the community. WASLE in the villages reaching out and spreading love



Proposed building for I.C.T Centre



WASLE - Learning in Progress



WASLE – Making Sure that no one is left behind.

