



2023

IMPACT REPORT

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION: AFRICA CODE WEEK



AN INITIATIVE BY



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INTRODUCTION

Africa Code Week (ACW) is a transformative initiative designed to bridge the digital divide and empower Africa's youth with essential coding and digital skills. ACW creates opportunities for young Africans to learn coding skills for free and for teachers to be trained on digital learning curricula across the continent.

This report outlines the program's achievements, key findings, and lessons learned over the past year, as well as its impact on learners and communities.

Program Overview

Total Participants: 1,200+

Age Range: 9-25 years

Training Topics: Scratch programming language

Training Format: In-person trainings.

Duration of the programme: September - December (four months)

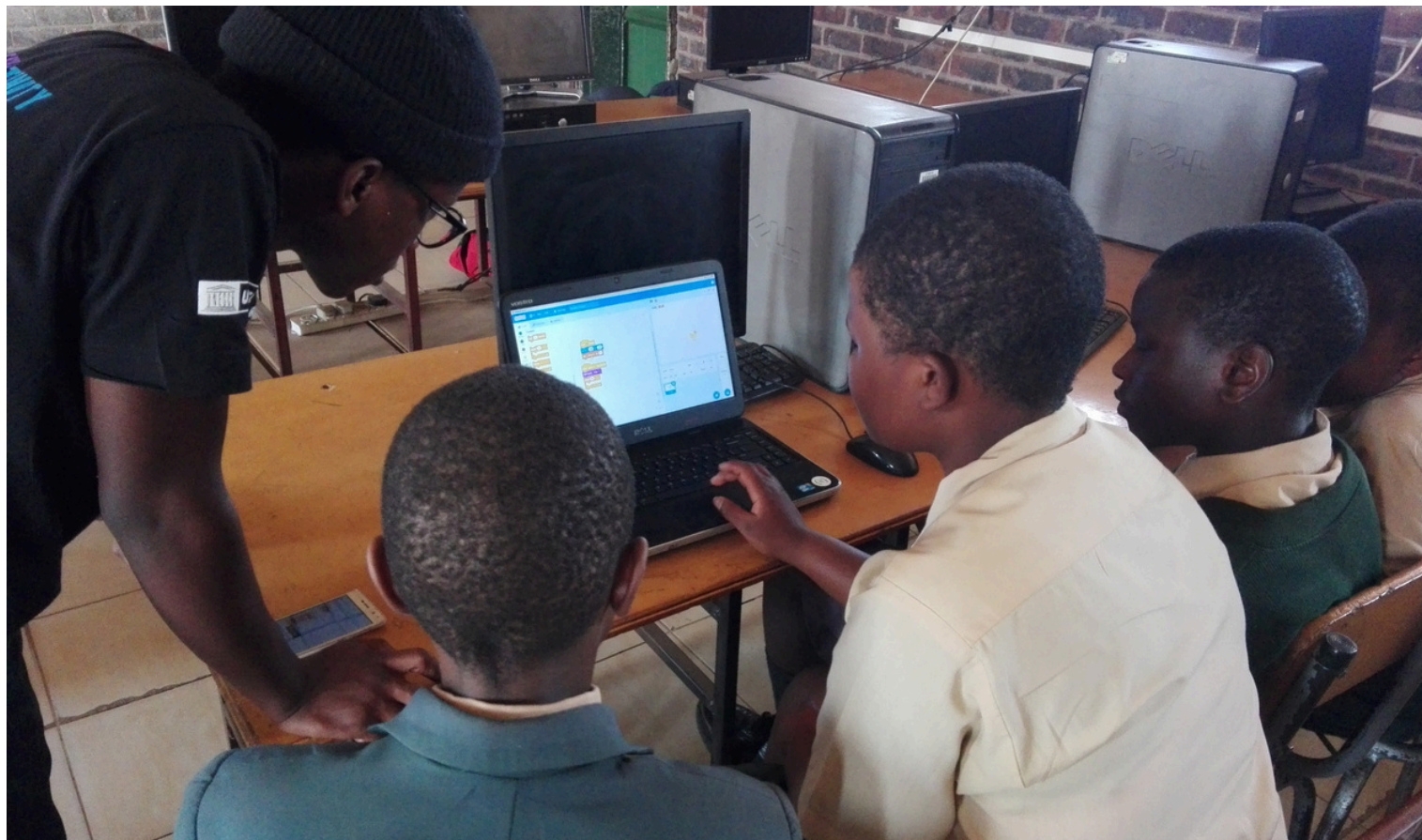
City: Bulawayo

Country: Zimbabwe



Participants Trained

Mvelo Hive Trust proudly participated in Africa Code Week initiative with the involvement of six dedicated volunteers. Through the program, the organization successfully reached 120 participants per school, focusing on low-income communities in Bulawayo. For many of the participants—encompassing both primary and high school students—this was their first exposure to coding. This initiative played a pivotal role in bridging the digital skills gap within the city.



Trained Institutions in Bulawayo

The program extended its impact to the following schools, one church and one community organisation in Bulawayo:

- Charleston Primary
- Mtshane Primary
- Queen Elizabeth Primary
- Emmanuel Light College
- Agape College
- Mandwandwe High
- Nkulumane High
- Mabhukudwane Primary
- Mafela Primary
- SwiZim Aid Trust
- Goshen Academy
- Jabula New Life Covenant Church

This impactful effort demonstrates the organization's commitment to empowering communities with essential digital skills and fostering innovation among youths in underserved areas.

Key Findings

1. **Improved Digital Literacy:** Over 80% of participants reported increased confidence in their ability to use a computer and to code.
2. **Youth Empowerment:** 85% of participants indicated that learning coding skills inspired them to pursue further education or careers in technology.
3. **Gender Inclusivity:** 55% of all participants were girls, reflecting Africa Code Week's commitment to bridging the gender gap in STEM in Zimbabwe.
4. **Community Impact:** ACW reached underserved communities, with all the participants coming from low income communities.

Success Stories

1. **Aisha's Journey to Tech Leadership (Charleston Primary):** Aisha, an 11-year-old participant from Charleston Primary, showcased her creativity and technical skills by designing her very own game using Scratch. Her success story highlights how Africa Code Week inspired her to explore coding, igniting a passion for technology at a young age.
2. **Tinashe's Path to Digital Transformation (SwizimAid Trust):** Tinashe, a 20-year-old from a community-based organization in Nkulumane, found inspiration during Africa Code Week to delve deeper into the world of coding and robotics. Motivated by this exposure, he took the initiative to pursue private lessons, equipping himself with the skills and knowledge necessary to explore opportunities in the digital world.
3. **The Aspiring Programmers of Mandwandwe High School:** A group of four girls and two boys, aged between 13 and 15 years, from Mandwandwe High, discovered a newfound interest in coding during Africa Code Week. Their excitement about programming led them to express their desire to learn Python, with the ambitious goal of creating their own calculator using Python programming. Their enthusiasm demonstrates the transformative potential of coding education in fostering creativity and innovation among young learners



Challenges and Lessons Learned

1. Device and Internet Access

- **Challenge:** Some schools, such as *Magwegwe Primary and Inkanyezi Primary*, lacked computers, which prevented eager participants from joining Africa Code Week sessions. As a result, these students missed out on the opportunity to benefit from the program.
- **Lesson Learned:** Implementing mobile coding labs equipped with necessary devices and utilizing offline resources proved effective in addressing this gap, allowing students to participate regardless of their school's infrastructure.

2. Training Educators

- **Challenge:** Many educators in low-income schools lacked the technical skills required to effectively facilitate coding sessions, which hindered program delivery.
- **Lesson Learned:** Providing comprehensive training and ongoing support for educators significantly boosted their confidence and improved their ability to deliver high-quality sessions.

3. Electricity Load Shedding

- **Challenge:** Frequent electricity outages affected many schools, leading to session cancellations and rescheduling, which disrupted the flow of the program.
- **Lesson Learned:** The acquisition of portable laptops for the team emerged as a critical need. These laptops will enable the team to conduct sessions across various schools without being reliant on the availability of electricity.



Recommendations

1. **Expand Device Access:** Strengthen partnerships with tech companies and NGOs to donate laptops and install solar-powered computer labs in the low income schools.
2. **Broaden Teacher Training:** Develop ongoing training programs for educators to ensure they are equipped to sustain coding clubs post-event.
3. **Community Engagement:** Increase collaboration with local governments and grass roots organizations to promote coding as a tool for social and economic development.



Conclusion

Africa Code Week 2023 has empowered many young people from disadvantaged communities in Bulawayo with essential digital skills, sparking innovation and building pathways to technology-driven futures. By addressing challenges and implementing the lessons learned, Africa Code Week will continue to strengthen its impact, inspiring a new generation of young leaders equipped to drive Zimbabwe's digital transformation

