Project Overview

Introduction

The BSI project was developed to provide young people with much needed access and usage of digital technologies, specifically laptops, in order to improve their studies, employment prospects, or businesses. Computer Aid selected 7 locations across South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, and Tanzania in order to supply the equipment.

Most of these locations have Solar Community Hubs (SCHs); solar powered and self-sufficient computer labs located in two converted shipping containers, offering digital literacy training and additional services such as printing, charging, internet connectivity, device repairs and recycling.

South Africa

Four SCHs in South Africa were selected as suitable locations for supplying laptops to young people: Xitlhelani and Mamaila, both in Limpopo province, and Mankosi and Nxarhuni in the Eastern Cape. The hubs serve an eclectic mix of beneficiaries including local school students, entrepreneurs, unemployed young adults, and prospective university students.

To date, at least 56 beneficiaries in South Africa have received their laptop and completed a baseline survey detailing their previous experience with ICT equipment, their aspirations, and competence with computing equipment. Additionally, all laptop recipients in South Africa received basic ICT training at their respective hubs prior to receiving their laptops.

Kenya

20 laptops were distributed to beneficiaries at the SCH in Kajiado, Kenya, in late August 2024; Kajiado is located South of Nairobi. The beneficiaries from Kajiado range in age from 19 to 29 years old, and 70% of recipients are young adult students studying a mixture of courses ranging from ICT to business administration and fashion design.

Nigeria

20 laptops were also distributed to a Secondary school in Surulere; an area in Lagos, Nigeria, with beneficiaries ranging in age from 14 - 23 years old. A number of the recipients are studying ICT, coding, or Digital Marketing courses through their school or college.

Tanzania

Laptops are currently in transit to schools and the village hub in Nyaishozi (North-western Tanzania). The schools have had their classrooms refurbished ahead of computer lab installations as part of the Tanzania Digital Schools project. The laptops will be distributed among a mixture of school students and young people located in Nyaishozi.

Beneficiary Selection

The various hubs were encouraged to choose beneficiaries based on a number of criteria which were mutually agreed:

- Select individuals who don't currently have a laptop and would struggle to obtain one.
- Prioritise those who will use the equipment to benefit their schooling, university or career.
- Select those who are hardworking and will genuinely benefit from the initiative.
- Choose individuals who attend the hub regularly and have a greater connection to the hub
- Prioritise young people aged between 16-25, where possible

Each SCH generally followed this criteria, however, each hub is unique and the beneficiaries selected were slightly different.

For instance, in Mankosi, South Africa, recipients aged 18-26 were chosen. The hub leadership felt that these beneficiaries were more mature, committed and also lived closer to the hub. This includes a mixture of beneficiaries who hope the laptops will aid them in submitting job applications, completing online courses, and engaging in micro-enterprise activities.

In Mamaila, laptops were mainly provided to unemployed adults in their late twenties or early thirties. The majority of these beneficiaries' highest level of education was Secondary school and at least 9 beneficiaries have been seeking employment for over a year.

They have all received ICT training at the hub. They aim to utilise the laptops for online courses to improve their employability, and gaining online skills such as emailing and using career portals to apply for jobs.

In Xitlhelani, all laptop recipients are enrolled at Mahuntsi Secondary School which is in close proximity to the SCH. The chosen recipients already utilise the hub regularly and have all recently passed exams at the hub in basic ICT skills.

The students are in Grade 8 to Grade 12 of their school and aim to use the laptops mainly for research, presentations and drafting documents, both for school work and for university studies in the future.

In contrast, the beneficiaries in Lagos, Nigeria were a slightly younger group and are mostly still completing their educational journey at Secondary school. They aim to use their laptops for Word processing, spreadsheets, presentations and coding. A number of beneficiaries have previously taken coding courses and hope to further improve their skills in this area moving forward.

In Kenya, the beneficiaries are mostly in their twenties and have just graduated from secondary school or are starting university. They generally visit the hub to strengthen their ICT skills ahead of higher education or their careers. They aim to use the laptops for university assignments, online courses in coding and ICT, and management of their start-ups/business.
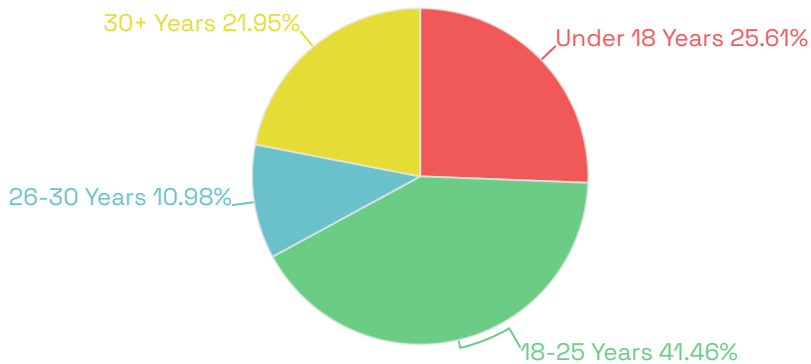
In Nxarhuni, 15 laptops were gifted by BSI South Africa to a mixture of beneficiaries. Three beneficiaries are university medical students who received a bursary for their studies with local partner Small Projects Foundation (SPF). Another 12 laptops were provided to volunteers at the SCH who will become ICDL trainers. These 12 beneficiaries are undertaking ICDL training of trainers. The remaining 20 laptops will be given to further university students in the coming weeks.
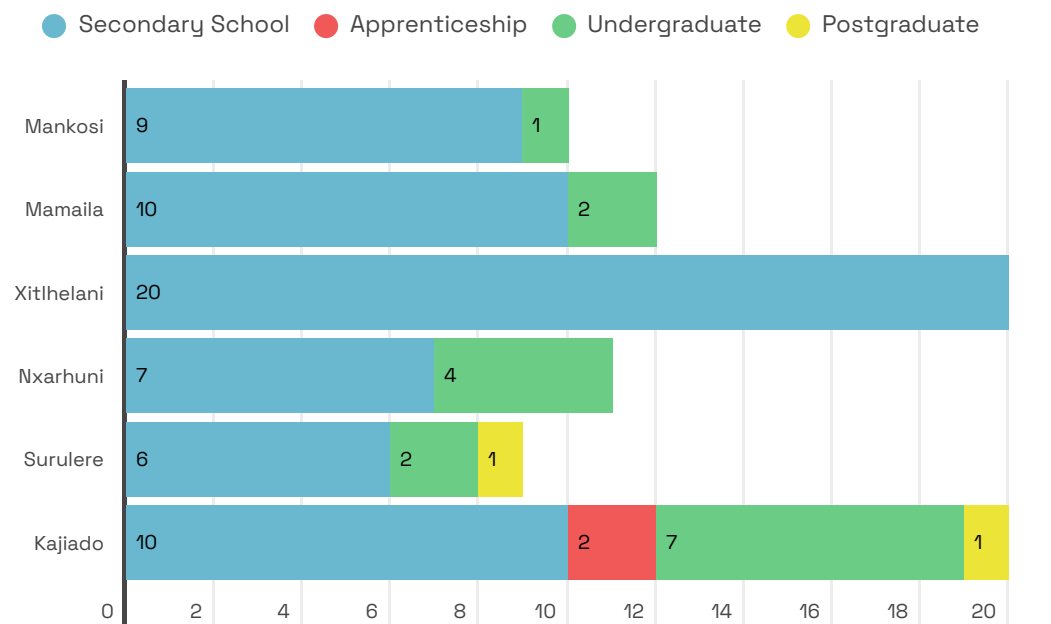
Baseline Survey

The baseline survey was completed by beneficiaries shortly after receiving their laptops at the hubs. The purpose of the baseline survey is to gauge previous exposure to digital technologies, understand recipient goals, concerns, and how they intend to use the laptop. In South Africa and Kenya, surveys were completed online through an internet browser, whilst In Nigeria, the surveys were completed offline due to poor internet connectivity.
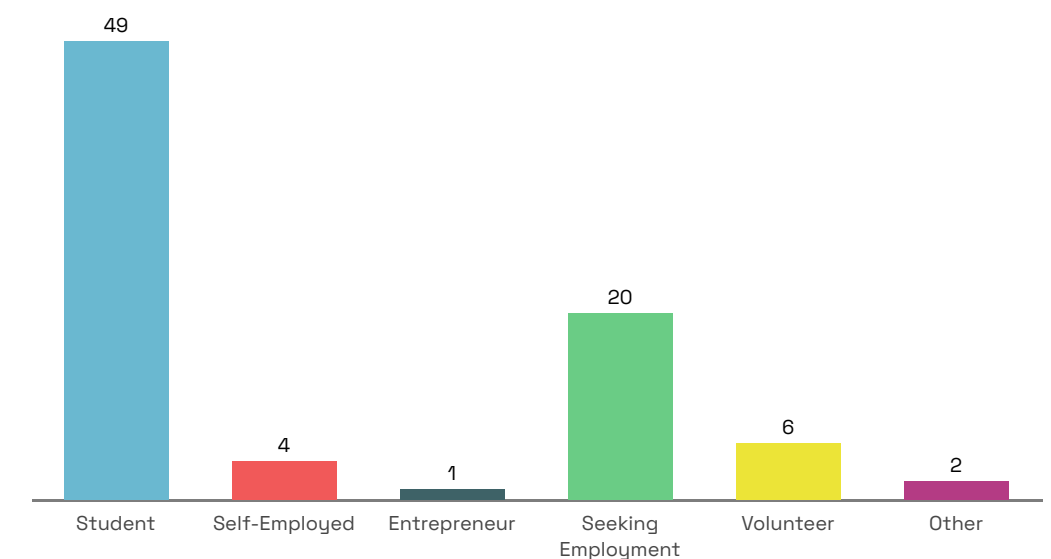
The Baseline survey consists of a cohort of 82 beneficiaries,; 52% are female and 48% are male.

Pie chart:
- 30+ Years 21.95%
- Under 18 Years 25.61%
- 26-30 Years 10.98%
- 18-25 Years 41.46%

The chart below shows the highest level of education among the 82 laptop beneficiaries who completed the baseline survey.

- ● Secondary School ● Apprenticeship ● Undergraduate ● Postgraduate

Hub	Secondary School	Apprenticeship	Undergraduate	Postgraduate
Mankosi	9		1	
Mamaila	10		2	
Xitlhelani	20			
Nxarhuni	7		4	
Surulere	6		2	1
Kajiado	10	2	7	1

The majority of recipients have not attended university and have currently been educated up till secondary school level. The hub in Kajiado, Kenya has the highest number of university -level recipients, whilst the hub in Xitlhelani has the highest number of secondary school recipients. The chart below shows the current status of beneficiaries, with 60% being students and 24% unemployed and seeking employment.

Status	Count
Student	49
Self-Employed	4
Entrepreneur	1
Seeking Employment	20
Volunteer	6
Other	2

"The laptop will be a valuable tool for personal and educational growth. It will enable me to access online resources, complete assignments, conduct research, and develop digital skills such as coding, which are essential for both academic success and future career opportunities. Additionally, having a laptop will allow me to work independently and efficiently, especially when it comes to projects, presentations, and staying organized."

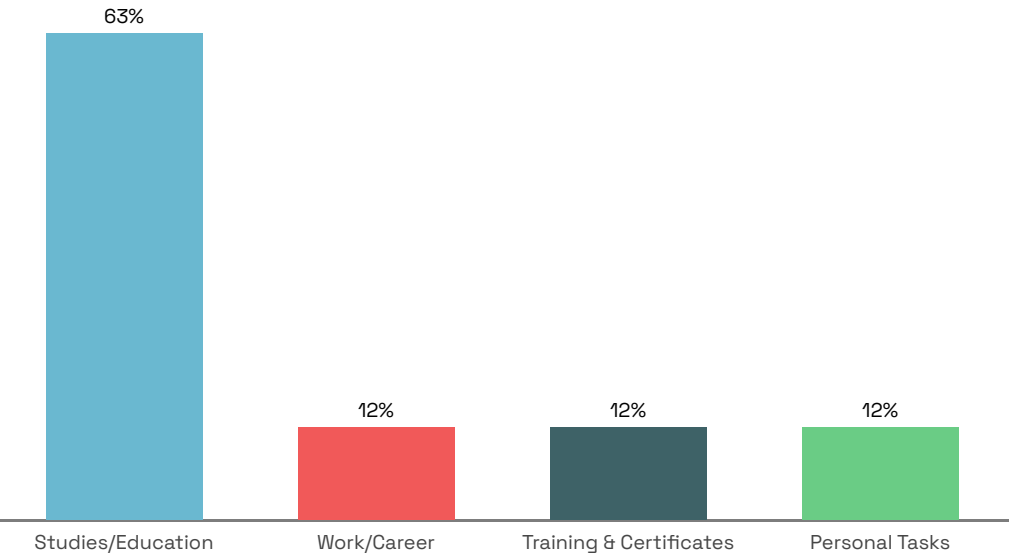**Nkagisane Pearl Leshabane,** Community Volunteer at Mamaila SCH

"As someone who's already started coding, having a laptop will be crucial for me to continue and expand my skills. I had to pause my coding because I lacked a personal computer to practice on. With this laptop, I can dive back into coding, work on projects, and even contribute to tech communities. This will help me become well-rounded and versatile in the Nigerian workforce."

Oluwadurotimi David Okonkwo, 18 Year Old Secondary School Student in Surulere, Nigeria
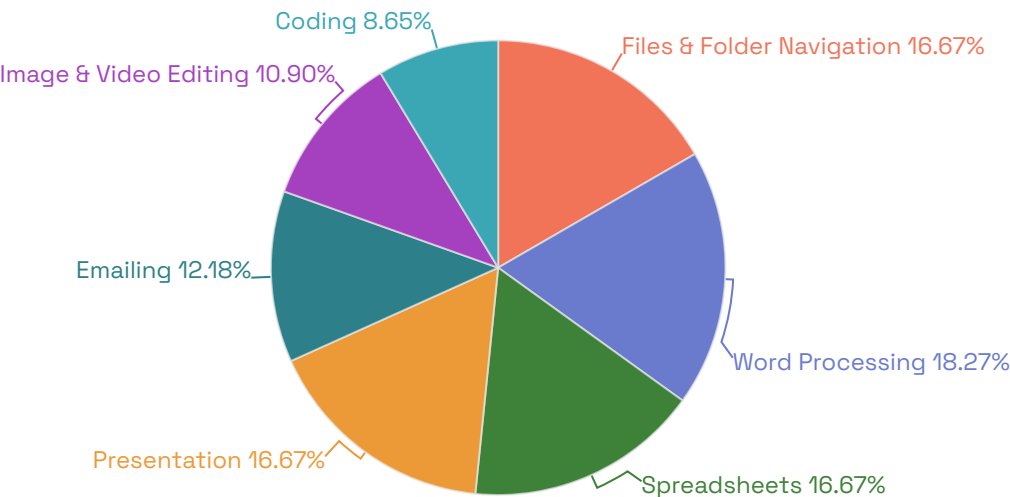
The chart below shows a high-level overview of what beneficiaries are planning to use their laptops for. The most popular category with 63% of respondents is Studies/Educational tasks. The other 3 categories were chosen by only 12% of respondents respectively. Personal tasks refers to administration and digital financial/banking services.

The chart below shows which types of tasks recipients aim to complete on their laptops.

While there is fairly even distribution, the most popular tasks are Word Processing, Presentations, Spreadsheets and file navigation.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT G⊙ALS

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Quality Education

This project contributes to Target 4.4 of SDG 4 which states:
By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.

Beneficiaries are directly gaining and have the opportunity to gain relevant technical skills that will improve their job prospects, contributing to Target 4.4.

5 GENDER EQUALITY

Gender Equality

This project contributes to Target 5.B of SDG 5 which states:
Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

By working with similar ratios of males and females and in some cases having more female recipients, usage of equipment by all ensures that no individual is excluded.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Industry, Innovation And Infrastructure

This project contributes to Target 9.C of SDG 9 which states:
Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries.

By providing numerous beneficiaries with laptops, hundreds of individuals will now have personal access to information and communications technology.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Responsible Consumption And Production

This project contributes to Target 12.5 of SDG 12 which states:
By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

ICT Equipment used in projects is donated largely from companies; equipment is data-wiped and refurbished before being sent to projects. Therefore, this project is promoting the reuse of equipment and reducing e-waste.

Next Steps

The BSI Project has made progress in supplying laptops to a range of beneficiaries across a number of locations in South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria.

Moving forward, there are a number of key activities to be completed:

- Allocating remaining laptops in South Africa to SCH beneficiaries
- Supply and allocate 20 laptops to beneficiaries in Nyaishozi, Tanzania
- Ensure remainder of beneficiaries complete Baseline Survey so that all 140 beneficiaries have responded
- Next year, supply a further 20 laptops to each location
- Shortlisting further locations to supply laptops including the upcoming SCH in Cape Town, South Africa and also locations in the UK helping those who are disadvantaged and offline
- Beneficiaries who completed the baseline survey this year will complete an endline survey next year with an update of their progress, any measured change in confidence, any certification gained, and any changes in their educational or employment status.
- Testing of students in ICT literacy with chance to obtain international certification through ICDL framework.