



Unlock Education For Those Who Need it Most

SKILLS FOR LIFE - DIGITAL LITERACY AND NUMERACY FOR
KAKUMA 'S REFUGEE AND HOST COMMUNITIES



Unlocking the true
potential of Kenyan
villagers and refugees.

Kakuma is one of the biggest refugee camps in Africa. It is located in Turkana District of the North-western side of Kenya and hosts over 180,000 refugees from 15 neighbouring countries of Kenya such as South Sudan, Congo and Somalia. Refugees flee their homes due to war, conflict and persecution. Many are separated from their families and friends, with few options to support themselves having to rely on aid.

The hosts are a nomadic pastoralist community from the Turkana tribe. They are now settling due to environmental conditions making their traditional lifestyle more difficult and also due to the strength of the growing community in the area with the establishment of the refugee camp.

International aid has been focused on the refugee camp itself, leaving out the almost equally desolate host community.

In spite of their differences, the two communities face the same challenges of food scarcity, drought and widespread disease. They also have the same dreams and aspirations to be successful in providing for themselves and their families as well as to have a better future. A large percentage of the people in both groups are illiterate and this can have an adverse effect on their livelihoods in terms of advancement in education, personal prospects, empowerment, self-employment, entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency.



As experts in education technology and interactive learning, at Avallain Foundation we believe in the power of education to unlock human potential and we believe in the need to develop a thorough understanding of the local conditions and ecosystem in which we work.

When we started developing a-ACADEMY Basic Skills, a literacy, numeracy and digital literacy teaching tool for Swisscontact's skills development project Skills4life, we knew the setting and we knew the final goal. The real question was: How would we approach educating such an ethnically and linguistically heterogeneous group?

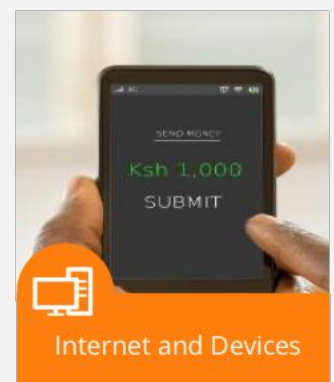
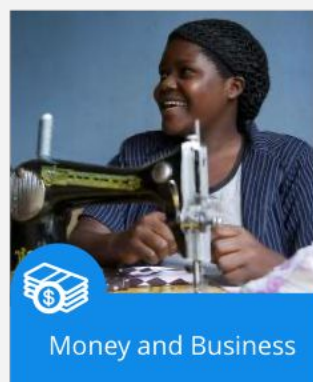
We designed a-ACADEMY Basic Skills aware of the nuances of adult literacy training. In order to develop relevant content we spent time with the end users both in the refugee and host communities. This gave us a full understanding of the target users and their environment, their needs and their aspirations. With Avallain Basic Skills we wanted to create a digital product that would relate equally to both groups and enable the acquisition of skills that are crucial for development

How do we achieve our goals?

a-ACADEMY Basic Skills consists of 2 apps that train literacy and numeracy skills respectively. They can be used offline on both laptops and tablets and include a self-assessment markbook where learners can track their progress.



The content is structured in four different areas of interest that emanate from the learners main interests and needs. Both apps are designed to take the users who have varying levels of literacy through a learning journey that will provide them with the necessary skills to an improved livelihood.





Embedded learning and storytelling

Both apps use an embedded approach, meaning that the curriculum is localized to the context and adapted to the learning conditions of both the host and refugee communities. The literacy and numeracy apps use the four areas of interest mentioned previously as an access way to the embedded content through local elements such as local names, visuals of local currency and local food, all of which are familiar to the users.

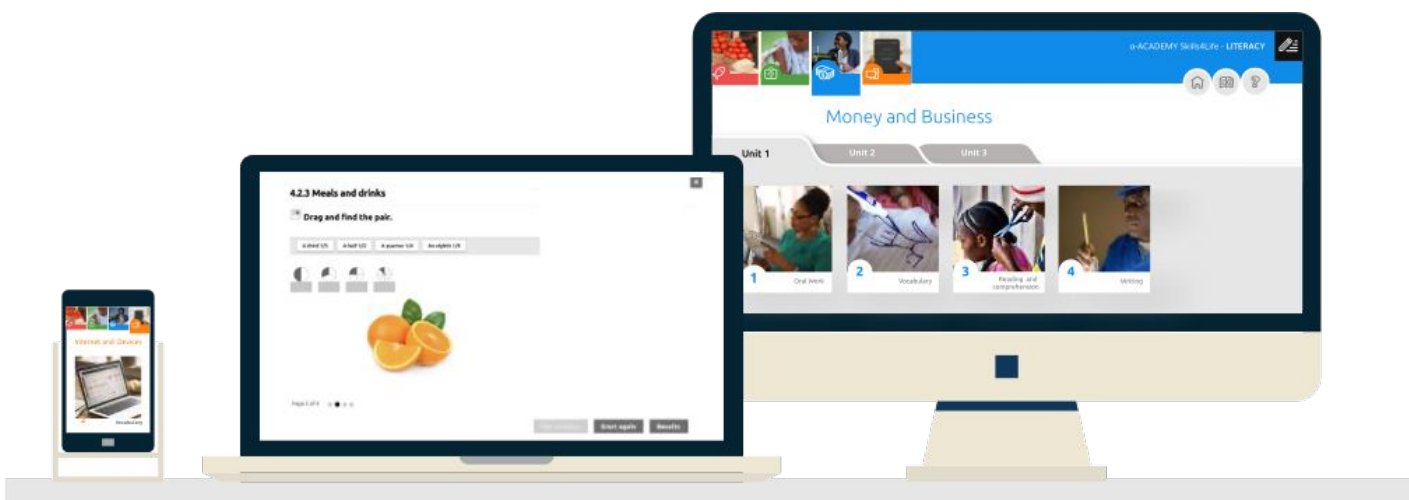
Within this embedded approach, we use storytelling as another element of adult literacy training. a-ACADEMY Basic Skills empowers learners using things that are familiar to them and the knowledge they already have - even if unaware of it - as learning tools. Through storytelling, we unlock their existing knowhow and add the necessary concepts to make it more transferable to various situations in their lives. Many of the learners already knew from experience how to cut flatbread into exactly four pieces. All they needed to learn was that this real-life concept could be expressed in formal mathematical terms.

Financial Literacy and life skills

a-ACADEMY Basic Skills also pays attention to financial literacy which is key in the daily lives of both the refugees and host community. It educates learners on buying and selling, how to create a budget, how to use money wisely and save, what financial services are available to them, such as mobile banking, and how to use them. It also keeps a special place for trades the learners are currently receiving training for as part of Swisscontact's Skills4Life program such as hairdressing, mechanics, tailoring or computer repairing. The direct environment of the learners provides a great field to source not just new vocabulary and verbs, but also concepts such as good communication, human relations or politeness, which are key skills to succeed in the labour market.

Teaching Language

The language of choice for a-ACADEMY Basic Skills is English. English is the language of instruction in Kenya and its use is instrumental especially for the youth who might be able to enter or re-enter regular formal education programs in the country. The level of language used is simple and basic to get the learners to acquire the needed skills and also learn the English language which is an important tool for integration between the host community and the refugee community.





What have we achieved so far?

We have been able to teach literacy as well as complex notions about disease prevention or digital technology to 3,000 learners who spoke entirely different languages in their daily lives. The people of Kakuma quickly connected their own experiences with the digital multimedia elements of the learning materials we provided. To increase the relevance of our digital materials to their lives, we included over 5,000 audio elements as well as thousands of digital photos taken directly from their living environment and the results were apparent. This not only increased their interest in our blended learning materials, it also allowed them to mentally connect digital sounds and sights to the words and concepts we presented them with.

3,000 learners in Kakuma

“ The lessons are very friendly and the pictures help me to understand easily. ”

Jeane Kaneza **Kakuma town**

Testimonials

“a-ACADEMY Basic Skills and its literacy and numeracy apps are enabling members of both these communities to acquire skills that will allow them to take part in further learning and socio-economic functions in their day-to-day lives, such as vocational trainings.”

Anthony Murathi
Swisscontact Project Manager

“The lessons are very important to me as a person especially the topic of nutrition has helped me to run my business in the hotel and budgeting. More so I can use the little English to communicate to my customers.”

Bahena Desire, **Kakuma Camp 3**

“The literacy and numeracy class has important areas which can help me support my family. I am very grateful.”

Ayei Majok, **Kakuma Camp 4**

“I can now communicate in English and I am happy because I am not the same person who came on the first day.”

Awal Myol, **Kalobeyi settlement**

“This learning is very helpful to me, my family and to my colleagues. There are so many things like greetings and counting which has made me confident at home.”

Samira Mohamed, **Kakuma Camp 1**



Who are we?

Avallain Foundation is the realisation of Avallain AG's vision: Cutting-edge education technology that unlocks human potential.

Avallain AG has been a pioneer in the market since 2002 by providing education solutions to leading international companies. Over time, Avallain AG encountered areas of need around the world where quality education was unavailable and the commercial value too low to attract investment.

To bridge that gap Avallain AG decided to establish a permanent presence in East Africa and opened a daughter company in Nairobi to realize its corporate social responsibility mandate. As the projects in Kenya developed successfully, Avallain AG's co-founders took their commitment further by creating Avallain Foundation.

To secure the Foundation's continued stability and success, Avallain AG is committed to covering the administration costs, making sure that each donated dollar goes directly to those who need it most. Avallain Foundation is a fully established 501(c)(3) non-profit organisation based in the United States.

avallainfoundation.org

For more information, please contact us:



Dr. Martina Amoth

CEO

mamoath@avallain.com

+254 716 511 262

NAIROBI, KENYA



Ursula Suter

CO-FOUNDER & PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

usuter@avallainfoundation.org

+1 (954) 505 6652 / +1 (929) 999 1006

NEW YORK, USA