

TheCentre@Elimu.ca



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## A Digital Hub for Learners.

With a bright and peaceful environment and separate study halls for primary school and high school students, the Centre grew from a capacity of 70 in 2016 to over 300 in 2018). A variety of educational software, video tutors and interactive practical exercises allow children to work at their own pace and practice as many examples as they need to feel sure of themselves. Individual outdoor balconies allow for study groups to gather, discuss and work out problems without disturbing fellow learners. Peer teaching is one of the most popular activities at the Centre. Students teach their fellows on subjects they feel confident about. A large conference room provides ample space for seminars and talks by Elimu staff and community representatives on topics such as how to pass exams, how to improve your results and preparing for graduation.

## **Income Generation & Sustainability**



An important secondary objective of the Centre is sustainability. Malindi is an urban setting where poverty co-exists with relative affluence. For income generation and long-term sustainability, the Centre serves both those able to pay for its services and those who are subsidized. The new location offers a variety of income possibilities including conference hall rentals, swimming lessons and our recent Cisco Networking Academy courses.



## **Responding to Students' Challenges**

Elimu Resource Centre is our response to the challenges faced by students in Kenya. In the public education system, the challenges include lack of teachers, high classroom populations up to 70 students, too few textbooks (sometimes only 1-3 for an entire class)—the list goes on. Challenges arising at home can include lack of funds for buying uniforms and school shoes which are compulsory, no textbooks for homework, dark or otherwise non-conducive study environments, no money for remedial help.

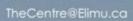
The first step towards a solution was a mentorship program which grew from humble beginnings—as a remedial holiday study program. In 2015, it moved from teacher-directed tutoring to a more student-directed approach. Digital tools like eReaders and DVDs were introduced to allow students to work individually and at their own pace. Students themselves set the schedule and assisted each other through peer-to-peer teaching.

Through our interactions with children, it became clear that the challenges are universal. The students most likely to succeed in this setting are those who are self-directed and highly motivated. The Centre benefits all types of students — primary and high school students, as well as post secondary and even adult learners. Teachers also find a variety of useful resources which they can use in the classroom or forplanning lessons.









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## Peer Study Groups at Elimu Resource Centre

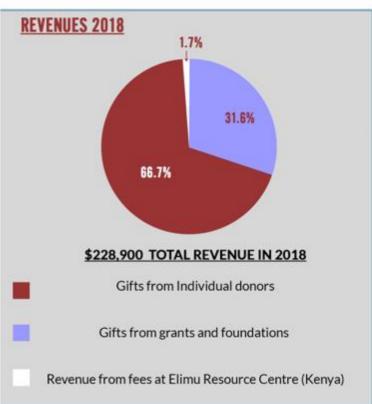


One of the activities that children at Elimu Resource Centre really appreciate is the peer study groups. We gather the kids based on their classes. They organize themselves for discussions to identify the topics they want to delve deeper into. Then they search from within the group for leaders to give them a lesson on those topics. At times, an Elimu team member guides the process. Kids have told that they enjoy learning this way because they find a fellow student will cover the topic at a pace that is better suited to them and they are not afraid to ask questions. The students who have led these groups have commented that it actually helped them learn more and gave them greater confidence in the topic. Study groups often meet on the balconies where they have privacy and won't disturb the other students in the study halls.

Encouraging children in self-directed studies is one of our key goals at Elimu. With these study groups, children learn how to assess themselves, identify their weaknesses and make a plan for addressing those weaknesses. They have at hand a variety of resources at the Centre to assist them. Peer study groups is one of the more interactive approaches. They can also work at their own pace with eTextbooks on our eReaders and various digital tutorials for math and sciences on our tablets. There are also tools for reading and improving literacy.









The charts above are presented in Canadian dollars and taken from the latest financial statements for Elimu submitted by the board of directors to the Canadian Revenue Authority (CRA) in June, 2019.

To view the detailed financial statements, visit Elimu.ca under About Us or click here.