

## **REHAAT-INITIATIVE Computer Education Program**

Revolution Human Aid and Transparency Initiative (REHAAT-INITIATIVE) is a non-governmental and not-for-profit organization based in Mzuzu City and working in the same city and surrounding districts. The NGO works in thematic areas of youth development, health, education, gender equality, and environment and climate change.

In the thematic areas of education and youth empowerment, REHAAT-INITIATIVE has a program of training primary and secondary school teachers in computer and basic ICT knowledge in the program called Computer Education Program. Through this program, the organization has trained teachers in primary and secondary schools of northern and central region of Malawi. In the central region the organization trained teachers at Mvunguti, Chatuwa, Chimutu, Karambo and Chiuzimbi Primary Schools in Lilongwe. In the northern region, Mzuzu city precisely, the organization has trained 16 teachers at Masasa Community Day Secondary School, 14 teachers at Kauwa Primary School and some at Mchengautuwal Primary School. These teachers are trained right at their respective schools. The organization also has a training room at its offices in which it trains school leavers.

The program has two main purposes. Firstly, is to equip teachers with computer knowledge which they can transfer to their students through effective teaching and they themselves use the computer in the course of their duties such as in typing examinations, entering school records and other related tasks.



Photo 1: Teachers receiving certificates in Lilongwe in 2013.

Secondly, the program also increases the employability of school leavers and school dropouts and instilling entrepreneurship spirit in them by training them in using computers for business and office purposes.



Photo 2: Training of youths in progress at training centre in Mzuzu



Photo 3: Certificate presentation and display

At REHAAT Training Centre, we have managed to train over 1000 school leavers from 2015 to 2018. In this we once entered into partnership with Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocational Education Authority (TEVET) for standardization and certification purposes. After we issued our certificates, TEVET would come in to assess our trainees and issue their certificates. Apparently TEVET has temporarily suspended the partnership to give space for REHAAT-INITIATIVE to put things in order. These things are mainly adequate number of computers and spacious room for trainings.

We are therefore seeking partners locally and internationally that can assist the organization with computers and other related equipment so that our mission of training youths and teachers in computer does not just escape into the air. We also need to regain our partnership with TEVET so that the organization start re-issuing TEVET Accredited certificates to its graduates.

Week starting 25<sup>th</sup> March, we will be conducting special trainings for girls only with the aim of empowering them economically and academically through skills acquisition. During the training, the girls will be attached to organization as part of internship in which they will be applying the skills in business and work setup. Those that cannot go further with their education will have increased chances of getting employed in jobs requiring computer skills as main qualification and those continuing with education will find it easily using ICT in their pursuit of brighter future.

During the trainings, these girls (and also boys in case of combined classes) will be sensitised in sexual reproductive health rights and enlightened on their sexual rights and where they can access sexual reproductive services. These trained youths also become part of our volunteers and some of them also become trainers of their colleagues.

We also intend to take our trainings to youths across the northern region by conducting mobile trainings in which we will be following these youths in their respective areas with computer trainings since not all of them can manage to come to Mzuzu to attend the training sessions. The mobile trainings will also be conducted in primary and community day secondary schools in required parts of the northern Malawi.

We also wanted to expand our training centre by restocking it with computers and transfer the training room to a spacious room as per requested by TEVET so that our beneficiaries are able to be assessed by TEVET again and get TEVET-accredited certificates which can give them chances of getting even better jobs.

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