

Build a global language & IT center in rural Sri Lanka

Executive Summary:

Sathkara Foundation is a registered non-profit organization in Sri Lanka dedicated to improving educational opportunities for children in underserved rural communities. For the past five years, the Foundation has successfully operated two free IT Learning Centre's in Kalutara and Angunukolapelessa, providing digital education to more than 500 children. Building on this success, Sathkara Foundation is establishing a new Global Language & IT Centre in Lunugamvehera.

Sri Lanka's high basic literacy masks severe gaps in digital and English skills, especially in rural communities. Overall digital literacy is only ~39% and English literacy merely 22%, with rural students scoring far below urban peers. We will build a new **Global Language & IT Centre** on donated land in Lunugamvehera (a remote area in Southern Province). The \$125,000 project will construct classrooms and labs powered by solar, equip 40 computers with Internet, and furnish the center. Volunteer teachers will provide **free IT and English classes to 200 disadvantaged children per year**, preparing them for further education and employment. This project aligns with national digital initiatives and proven models like Sri Lanka's Nenasala ICT hubs. With local partnerships and a solid five-year track record, we will create lasting educational opportunities that help rural youth break the cycle of poverty.

About Sathkara Foundation

The Story Behind Sathkara Foundation

Sathkara Foundation was founded in **2015** by a group of friends from the **NSBM Green University, Batch 14.2**, who shared a common vision of creating equal opportunities for disadvantaged communities across Sri Lanka. What began as a small initiative driven by compassion and volunteerism has grown into one of the country's active grassroots charitable organizations, delivering sustainable community development projects throughout the island.

Over the past decade, our volunteers have successfully implemented **more than 1,000 community service projects** across Sri Lanka, directly improving the lives of thousands of children, families, elderly people, and persons with disabilities.

Our initiatives have included:

- **Book Donation Projects** providing essential learning materials for underprivileged students.

- **School Building Construction and Renovation Projects** to improve learning environments.
- **Housing Assistance Projects** for vulnerable families.
- **Dry Food Donation Programs** supporting families affected by poverty and natural disasters.
- **Eyeglass Donation Projects** restoring vision and improving quality of life.
- **Maternity Support Programs** providing essential supplies for pregnant mothers and newborn babies.
- **Support for Persons with Disabilities**, including wheelchairs, walking aids, medicines, and medical equipment.
- **Annual New Year Celebrations and Excursions** for elderly residents living in nursing homes.
- **Beach Cleaning Campaigns** promoting environmental conservation.
- **Tree Planting Projects** supporting climate action and environmental sustainability.
- **Free IT & English Education Centres**, providing digital and language skills to rural children.
- **Scholarship Programs** helping financially disadvantaged students continue their education.

Today, Sathkara Foundation continues to be powered by passionate volunteers who believe that **education is the most sustainable solution to breaking the cycle of poverty**. Having successfully operated two free IT & English learning centres for the past five years, we are now embarking on our most ambitious initiative yet—establishing the **Global Language & IT Centre in Lunugamvehera**. This new centre will provide free digital and English education to more than **200 rural children every year**, equipping them with the skills needed to succeed in higher education, employment, and an increasingly digital world.

Our journey began with a group of university friends. Today, it continues with thousands of lives transformed—and with your support, thousands more will have the opportunity to build a brighter future.

Background and Need

Sathkara Foundation has successfully operated two free IT Learning Centres for the past five years. More than 500 children from disadvantaged families have received free computer education and English language training through these centres. This proven experience demonstrates the Foundation's ability to successfully implement and sustain community-based education projects.

Despite universal primary schooling, rural Sri Lanka faces critical educational shortfalls. Over 80% of the population lives in rural areas, but only ~56% have Internet access. A Slycan Trust analysis notes digital literacy is just 38.7% nationally (36.4% in rural areas), and only 22% of adults can use English effectively. Many rural schools are physically isolated and under-resourced: they often lack computers, books, and qualified teachers. Teachers frequently transfer out of “difficult” rural postings, causing chronic shortages in remote schools. Lessons rely on blackboards and rote methods, with little interactive learning. UNICEF observes that limited resources and large classes make English a “challenging subject” in rural areas, with meaningful, individualized learning largely out of reach. As a result, rural children graduate with strong basic literacy but without the digital or communication skills needed for higher education or jobs, perpetuating inequality.

Sathkara Foundation has already demonstrated impact by operating two free IT centers (Kalutara and Angunukolapelessa) for five years. To date **500+** children from low-income families have gained computer skills and basic English through these centers. Graduates have gone on to higher education and better jobs, showing the value of our approach. However, many students – especially in Lunugamvehera – still have no access to such opportunities. Without new facilities, hundreds of local youth will be left behind in the digital age.

Project Objectives

- **Expand free digital and language education:** Establish a third Global Language & IT Centre offering 100% free instruction.
- **Serve 200+ students annually:** Reach at least 200 children per year (ages ~10–18) from Lunugamvehera and neighboring villages, with priority for underprivileged and female students.
- **Improve skills and outcomes:** Equip students with core IT competencies (computer use, office software, internet literacy) and functional English (speaking, writing, reading).
- **Bridge rural-urban divide:** Narrow the gap in digital and language skills between rural and urban youth, improving college and career prospects.
- **Sustainable model:** Leverage volunteer teachers, local partnerships, and renewable energy to ensure the center can operate long-term with low costs.

Activities & Curriculum

- **Construction & Setup:** Build a modern learning center on the donated land in Lunugamvehera. Facilities include two classrooms, an IT lab for 40 desktop computers, an English lab, and sanitation. We will install solar panels and batteries to ensure reliable power (critical given the rural grid). A stable Internet connection and networking

hardware will link the computers (leveraging programs like Sri Lanka's Nenasala network).

- **IT Training:** Offer a structured computer curriculum. Beginners learn mouse/keyboard skills, operating systems, and MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint). Intermediate students advance to internet research, email, and basic programming logic (e.g. Scratch or Python basics). Practical projects (e.g. digital storytelling, basic coding games) reinforce learning.
- **English Language Classes:** Teach English through interactive methods. Curriculum covers conversation, listening, reading, and writing, aligned to age/grade levels. We will use multimedia (audio, video, language apps) to make learning engaging, addressing the problem that rural classes lack interactive resources. Regular speaking and listening drills build confidence. We will track progress with pre- and post-tests to ensure skill gains.
- **Teacher Training & Materials:** Recruit and train volunteer instructors (including recent graduates or teachers from local areas). Provide them with modern teaching guides, computers, and a language lab kit. Continuous training will keep teachers up-to-date on ICT and language pedagogy, addressing the shortage of qualified rural educators.
- **Student Support Activities:** Offer after-class homework help and mentorship. Organize periodic community tech fairs and English clubs to encourage practice. Provide English and IT certificates upon course completion to bolster students' resumes.

Annual Targets

- **200 students enrolled per year:** Including at least 50% girls.
- **90% attendance rate:** (We will use SMS reminders and community liaisons to encourage regular attendance.)
- **80% course completion rate:** at least 80% of enrolled students complete the full program each year.
- **Skill mastery:** 70% of students achieve proficiency (e.g. basic Office and conversational English) by program's end, measured via practical exams.
- **Community impact:** Increase digital literacy in Lunugamvehera by at least 10 percentage points over 5 years (leveraging local surveys).

Site & Resources

The center will be built on **donated land in Lunugamvehera** (Tissamaharama area, Southern Province), a dry-zone rural community. The site is accessible by road and centrally located for nearby villages. The community has pledged support (e.g. volunteer recruitment, local materials), reflecting strong local demand. Our budget includes funds for construction materials (cement, bricks, steel, roofing, doors/windows, wiring), furnishings (desks, chairs, whiteboards, library shelves), IT equipment (40 desktop PCs, networking gear, UPS, projector), solar power (panels, batteries, inverter), and learning resources (English textbooks, language software licenses, stationery). A breakdown of key costs is below:

Item	Cost (USD)	Description
1. Building construction	\$47,000	Classrooms, office space, sanitation facilities
2. Computer laboratory (IT lab)	\$20,000	40 desktop PCs, networking, installation
3. Furniture & equipment	\$12,000	Desks, chairs, tables, whiteboards, bookshelves, office furniture
4. Solar power installation	\$10,000	Solar panels, batteries, wiring, lighting
5. IT & digital equipment	\$15,000	Projector, printer, local server, software licenses, security systems
6. English lab & library	\$13,000	Language lab computers/software, library books, learning materials
7. Connectivity & setup	\$8,000	Internet setup, routers, initial ISP fees, maintenance tools
Total	\$125,000	Full Project Cost

All expenditures are based on local cost estimates and comparable non-profit education projects. We will purchase locally whenever possible to support the rural economy and reduce costs.

Donation Impact Options

Supporters can choose any level; each has a clear impact on our goals. These are aligned with our budget needs and ensure transparency:

Amount (USD)	Impact
\$10	Provides English learning materials and stationery for one child.
\$25	Supplies one student with IT training materials (software, flash drives) and learning resources.
\$50	Covers one student's tuition for IT and English classes for one month.
\$100	Purchases a desk and chair for a student's workstation in the classroom.
\$250	Helps buy computer equipment and networking accessories (cables, switches) for the IT lab.
\$500	Funds internet connectivity and digital learning infrastructure (router, initial ISP fees).
\$1,000	Equips an entire classroom with desks, chairs, whiteboard, and teaching tools.
\$5,000+	Builds and outfits a major section of the Global Language Centre, bringing IT & English education to 200 rural children each year.

These donation levels correspond directly to project costs (e.g. \$250 roughly buys several PCs' peripherals, \$1,000 covers classroom furniture, etc.), making it easy for donors to see the difference they can make.

Materials List

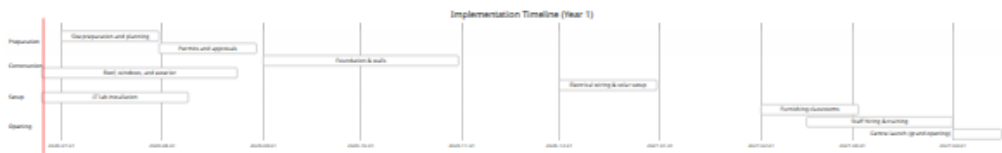
To execute the project, we will procure the following key materials and resources:

Category	Key Items
Construction	Cement, sand, bricks, steel rebar, roofing sheets, doors, windows, electrical wiring, plumbing.
IT Equipment	40 desktop computers, network switches/routers, ethernet cables, UPS/batteries, projector, printer.
Furniture & Fixtures	Student desks, chairs, tables, teacher podiums, whiteboards, shelves, storage cabinets.
Solar & Electrical	Solar panels, inverters, deep-cycle batteries, charge controllers, LED lights, wiring.
Internet & Connectivity	Wi-Fi router, modem, monthly ISP access fees, network security software.
Learning Resources	English textbooks, ESL software/apps, coding tutorials, library books, stationery (paper, pens).

These materials will be purchased in bulk to equip the center fully before opening. Where possible we will source from local suppliers to boost the local economy and ensure maintenance support.

Implementation Timeline

The project is planned over **12 months**. Key phases include site preparation, construction, setup, and launch. A high-level schedule is shown below:



This Gantt chart outlines a realistic schedule. Site work and permits begin immediately (July 2026). By early 2027, we will be installing equipment and training staff. The center is planned to open by **April 2027**, in time for the new school term.

Staffing & Volunteers

We will staff the center with a mix of paid and volunteer personnel. All roles will prioritize candidates from nearby areas when possible to ensure community investment.

Role	Number	Responsibilities
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Role	Number	Responsibilities
Founder & Executive Director – Sathkara Foundation	1 (existing leader)	Overall oversight, donor coordination, and reporting.
Centre Coordinator	1	Day-to-day operations, community liaison, scheduling.
IT Instructors	2 (part-time)	Teach computer skills, maintain IT equipment.
English Instructors	2 (part-time)	Teach English classes, develop curriculum.
Volunteer Assistants	4–6	Classroom assistants, homework help, event support.
Technical Support Staff	1 (part-time)	Maintain computers, network, and solar system.
Monitoring & Eval. Officer	1 (part-time)	Track KPIs, conduct surveys, compile progress reports.

Volunteer Recruitment: We will partner with local teachers’ colleges, community organizations, and the Ministry of Education to recruit motivated volunteers and interns (e.g. final-year students in IT or English education). Short training workshops will prepare volunteers for their roles. Stipends or transportation allowances (from our operational budget) may be provided to ensure retention.

Monitoring & Evaluation

We will measure success using clear metrics and regular reporting:

- **Enrollment & Attendance:** Track monthly enrollment; aim for 200+ new students annually. Maintain >90% average attendance through reminders and community outreach.
- **Course Completion & Exams:** Record completion rates (target $\geq 80\%$). Use pre- and post-course tests (for both IT skills and English) to measure knowledge gains. Aim for $\geq 70\%$ of students showing improved test scores.
- **Skill Certification:** Issue certificates; track the number of students earning basic computer and English proficiency certificates.
- **Student Feedback:** Conduct biannual surveys of students and parents on teaching quality and usefulness. Target $\geq 80\%$ satisfaction.
- **Employment/Education Outcomes:** Follow up on alumni: target that a significant portion pursue higher education or better jobs (to be measured via alumni surveys, starting year 2).
- **Operational KPIs:** Monitor teacher hours, volunteer engagement, maintenance issues. Quarterly internal audits will ensure funds are used properly.

These KPIs will be reported to donors annually. Adjustments (e.g. curriculum tweaks, outreach efforts) will be made based on evaluation data.

Sustainability & Risk Mitigation

Sustainability: Having operated two centers for 5 years, we have proven our capacity for long-term management. Key sustainability strategies include: volunteer staffing (minimizing payroll), community co-ownership (parents' committees), and low operating costs via solar power. We will seek ongoing support through local fundraising (e.g. small businesses), CSR partnerships (e.g. tech firms), and international grants. The digital and language skills curriculum will be updated over time to remain relevant to job market needs, keeping alumni engaged.

Risk Management: We have incorporated contingency funds (5%) for unexpected costs. Potential risks and mitigations include:

- *Funding shortfall:* Maintain a diversified donor base (crowdfunding, grants, corporate donors). If needed, we can phase the project (start with one classroom).
- *Construction delays:* Use experienced local contractors and closely supervise.
- *Technology failures:* Provide a service contract/maintenance plan for computers and solar equipment.
- *Teacher dropout:* Recruit surplus volunteers each year to handle turnover.
- *External shocks (e.g. pandemic):* As we learned from COVID-19, we will have hygiene protocols in place and be prepared to offer hybrid/digital classes if needed (leveraging any future distance-learning initiatives).
- *Community resistance:* We will maintain open dialogue with local leaders and parents, incorporating their feedback. Because the land is donated by a local philanthropist, community buy-in is high.

Community Engagement & Partnerships

This project is community-driven. We will engage local schools and village councils from the start, inviting them to participate in planning and student selection. Partnerships include:

- **Local Schools:** We will work with nearby schools to identify students who need extra support and to share facilities/events.
- **Local Businesses:** Companies (e.g. agricultural firms, banks) will be approached for sponsorships or internships for our students, highlighting CSR benefits.
- **NGOs and Universities:** Collaborate with Sri Lankan NGOs and universities for volunteer recruitment and best practices.

Through community events (open days, tech fairs), we will publicize the center's impact. Local media coverage and social media campaigns (see below) will amplify our message. By involving parents, village elders, and students in every phase, we ensure the project truly meets community needs.

Marketing & Fundraising Plan

To attract donors and raise awareness, we will leverage the supplied cover photo and a strong social media campaign. The cover photo headline will be *"Build a global language & IT center*

in rural sri lanka” (exactly as specified), featuring smiling students with computers. Suggested campaign text includes:

- *Social Media Post*: “We’re building a FREE IT & English learning center in Lunugamvehera, Sri Lanka! 🌐💻✍️ 200+ rural children will learn computer and English skills every year. Help us bridge the digital divide – your \$10-\$1,000+ donation makes it possible. Learn more & donate: [link] #EducationForAll #DigitalSkills #SriLanka”
- *Longer Appeal*: “In remote Sri Lanka, many children lack internet or quality English instruction. Our new Global Language & IT Centre will provide free computer and English lessons to hundreds of kids, opening doors to better education and jobs. Sponsors get regular impact updates. Join us – even a \$25 gift equips a student with learning materials! (See donation levels below.)”
- *Email/Newsletter Blurb*: “Our latest project: A solar-powered IT & English language center on donated land in rural Sri Lanka. We’ve successfully educated 500 children in other villages – now it’s Lunugamvehera’s turn! Click to see how your support can change lives (e.g. \$50 covers a month of classes for one student).”

We will post these messages on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, tagging #GlobalGiving, #DigitalDivide, and local partners (e.g. @icta.lk, @unesco). The cover photo (shown below) will be used as the hero image on our fundraising page and shared widely. Local success stories (testimonials from past students) will be featured to add authenticity. Bi-weekly updates and photos will keep donors engaged.

Build a **GLOBAL LANGUAGE & IT CENTER** IN RURAL SRI LANKA

Empowering Rural Children Through IT & English Education

GLOBAL LANGUAGE & IT CENTER IN RURAL SRI LANKA

IT SKILLS ENGLISH LANGUAGE BETTER FUTURE

EDUCATION TODAY
SUCCESS TOMORROW

- 200+ CHILDREN WILL BENEFIT EVERY YEAR
- FREE IT TRAINING & DIGITAL EDUCATION
- FREE ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION
- BETTER SKILLS
BETTER JOBS
BRIGHTER FUTURES
- BUILDING A BETTER TOMORROW TOGETHER

Join Us in Building a *Brighter Future* for Rural Children



