



National Volunteer Network Trust (NAVNET)

National Telecentre for Youth

Background

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER NETWORK TRUST

National Volunteer Network Trust (NAVNET) is a not for profit organization founded in 2003 and is registered as a Trust in Kenya. NAVNET is a hub of all forms of local and national volunteering geared towards enhancing community social and economic development. It works through local and national volunteers and promotes volunteerism across the country and serves both individuals and organizations. NAVNET's vision is "*Building sustainable societies through volunteerism*". It does so through Health & HIV/AIDS, Education, Secure Livelihood and Youth Empowerment Programmes. NAVNET recruits students/graduate volunteers, professional and employees volunteers to work in these four programmes areas and works with over 500 youth volunteers aged between 15-35 years.

Background of the Project

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is the world's fastest growing economic activity; the sector has turned the globe into an increasingly interconnected network of individuals, firms, schools and governments communicating and interacting with each other. ICT has opened new channels for service delivery in areas such as e-education, e-government, e-health and e-volunteering.

In Kenya the ICT industry has registered tremendous growth in the last few years. However the use of ICT is still far from many Kenyans especially the marginalized who lack the infrastructure, knowledge and access to ICT. With the arrival of the optic fiber in June 2009, it is expected that more Kenyans will have increased access to ICTs and thus the need to come up with innovative ways to enhance economic development through ICTs.

NAVNET, a leading volunteer agency in Kenya that works with young talented fresh graduates and students to support community partners through national volunteering would like to exploit the opportunity provided by the fibre optic through youth e-volunteering via a telecentre. Until now NAVNET has been engaging fresh graduate volunteers within the community through placement but the host partners lacks basic infrastructure, financial and mentorship support.

NAVNET Resource Centre (Telecentre)

The establishment of a telecenter/resource center within NAVNET's spacious office will provide a platform and space where young graduates can be trained /mentored and gain experience to support our community partners with ICT solutions through e-volunteering. A telecentre is a public place where people can access computers, the internet, and other digital technologies that enable them to gather information, create, learn, and communicate with others while they develop essential digital skills. While each telecentre is different, their common focus is on the use of digital technologies to support community, economic, educational, and social development—reducing isolation, bridging the digital divide, promoting health issues, creating economic opportunities, and reaching out to youth. NAVNET recognizes the role your organization has played in promoting the use of ICTs in Kenya, as the project we have in mind falls within your vision and we submit this proposal in the hope that you will be able to support our work.

Project Context

Developments in communication technologies such as tele-centers and the introduction of fibre optics will create a platform for spreading awareness about volunteerism and cater for the growing interest in short-term, flexible volunteer assignments, especially among the young people. Advances in communication technology and changing lifestyles are resulting in a growth of online volunteering.

Rationale for the Proposed Project

e-volunteering is a new concept in Kenya and can be capitalized upon as a viable way of enhancing the use of ICTs in the country especially with the coming of the sea fibre optic cable that will enable more people to access internet services. NAVNET volunteers' skills can be effectively utilized for development in this way. This not only increases the graduates' chances of getting into gainful employment but also enables them to gain insight on how ICT can bring about sustainable development.

Project Goal and Objectives

The goal of the project is to support all NAVNET community partners working in HIV/AIDS, Health, Secure Livelihoods, Education and Youth with customized ICT solutions such as graphical user interface (GUI) databases, website and other communication solutions. The specific objectives of the project to achieve by mid 2010 are:

- developed user friendly application systems for the community partners
- enhanced the visibility of the community development projects through the internet
- made accessible the application system through tailor made software
- created local support and training in ICTs through experienced trainers
- developed skills and competence in ICTs among the youth for gainful employment
- developed the spirit of volunteerism and social responsibility among the youth

Project Strategy and Activities

NAVNET's objective for Youth Empowerment Programme is to improve the lives of the youth by giving them the opportunity to improve their skills and knowledge on pertinent issues that affect their careers. We do so through a *talent search* where the best ICTs students/fresh graduates are recruited and facilitated to develop their skills and competence in software development, content development and website design. They are then attached for three (3) months to build the capacity of our community partners in the use of ICTs through e-volunteering. Activities include:

- Software Development
- Local Content Development
- Website Design

Expected Results

- increased visibility of the community development projects (20 partners)
- easy accessibility of application systems tailor made to partners (20 products)
- partners communication materials e.g. websites, newsletters, CD-ROMs, video clips
- local support and training in ICTs through experienced trainers (20 ICTs students/graduates)
- youth gains skills and competence in ICTs for gainful employment and enterprise development (20 graduates)
- spirit of volunteerism and social responsibility enhanced among the youth (20 youth)

Innovation

This project is very unique in that, it's about youth, ICTs, giving, volunteering, developing skills and sustainable development! This an opportunity for youth and community to tap the full benefits of ICTs through the opportunities that will be created by the fibre optic cable and hence the NAVNET's slogan "*Linking opportunities*"

Organization's Capacity and Expertise

National Volunteer Network Trust (NAVNET) is a brain child of Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) International Returned Volunteers. The VSO Jitolee (East African) has recruited over 800 skilled Kenyan since the year 2000 to go and work in other developing countries. These returned volunteers after they come back they support Kenyan young graduates/ students to develop skills and competence through local and national volunteering. Some of the partners who have supported our previous projects are shown below.

Budget Estimate

NAVNET is seeking funds to procure and support the operation (for 1 year) of the following ICTs equipment and the budget estimate is **Kshs 2,975,000 (US\$ 40,000)** as shown in appendix 1

Appendix 1 – Budget Details

Description of Item (s)	Unit Price	Total (Kshs)
• 1 server and a cabinet	= Kshs 80,000	80,000
• 5 latest computer technologies	= Kshs 60,000 x 5 units	300,000
• 5 Computer tables & chairs	= Kshs 20,000 x 5 units	100,000
• Networking solutions	= Kshs 30,000 x 1 time	30,000
• Software installation*	= Kshs 30,000 x 5 units	150,000
• Broad band connection	= Kshs 80,000 x 1 time	80,000
• 3 in one printer, fax & scanner	= Kshs 40,000 x 1 unit	40,000
• Photocopier	= Kshs 150,000 x 1 unit	150,000
• 2 Digital cameras	= Kshs 30,000 x 2 units	60,000
• 1 video camera	= Kshs 60,000 x 1 unit	60,000
• 5 Peripherals (comp cam & VR)	= Kshs 10,000 x 5 units	50,000
• Office partitions	= Kshs 50,000 x 1 time	50,000
• Books cabinet	= KShs 25,000 x 1 unit	25,000
• Books (resource materials)**	= (NAVNET contribution)	
• Office space (telecentre)***	= (NAVNET contribution)	
• Volunteers' allowance	= Kshs 10,000 x 5 volunteers x1 yr	600,000
• Facilitators' allowance	= Kshs 10,000 x 5 volunteers x1 yr	600,000
• Volunteer Administrator	= Kshs 20,000 x 1 staff x 1 yr	240,000
• Office support****	= Kshs 30,000 x 1 yr	360,000
		2,975,000
		(US\$ 40,000)

Notes

Software installation includes (Antivirus, Ms Office, Dream Weaver, Visual Basic, SQL, Photo Shop, Corel, Adobe Page Maker, crystal report)

Office support includes (payment of monthly internet bill, stationery and computer servicing and maintenance)

NAVNET will provide (books about volunteerism and development and will pay office rent for the telecentre). However donation of books and software (CD-ROMs) on ICTs for Development is encouraged.

Our current partners



For more information on how you can visit our Office/Centre and support our Project, Kindly contact Johnson Kinyua, Director, National Volunteer Network Trust (NAVNET), Hazina Towers, 11th Floor, Monrovia Street, P.O. Box 40635-00100 Nairobi, Kenya. Tel: +254 20 250 48 29 * Cell: +254 722 134 693 * Email: info@navnet.or.ke