



Technology In Education Society

Advancing education in
developing countries

Viaduct Technology In Education Society – 2024 Impact Report

Prepared **February, 2025**

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, ”

— Charles Dickens, [A Tale of Two Cities](#)

Executive Summary (included in 2024 T3010):

Ongoing programs:

Despite some challenges, TIES continued to deliver benefits to students in developing countries through three ongoing projects in 2024: 1) The most notable TIES project in 2024 was the Kenya University Scholarships Project; two young women graduated with their university degrees and five more are expected to graduate in 2025. 2) TIES sponsors indigenous Mayan girls for vocational high school programs at the Ak' Tenamit School in Sarstun, Guatemala. In 2024, one further girl graduated, and the other current student is doing well in her program. 3) The Guatemala University Scholarship pilot program continued but funding had to be paused as a new intermediary was sought.

New programs:

TIES initiated one new project in 2024. A generous donor funded the Digital Skills Project pilot program in Kenya. The four-month pilot program run by our intermediary, TIES of Kenya, was promising but the technical mentor in Nairobi tragically passed away at a young age, leaving the future of the project up in the air.

TIES Impact in 2024:

Milestones:

Despite some significant challenges in 2024, TIES hit some notable milestones in its fifth year:

- Two beneficiaries of the Kenya University Scholarship Project graduated with their university degrees!
- One further Guatemala grad in the Guatemala High School Sponsorship program.
- One added program: the Digital Skills Project in Kenya.

Challenges:

- Kenya government's new funding model for universities fell apart.

- Loss of major donor (the bright side was a parting gift funding the Digital Skills Project).
- Death of Digital Skills Project pilot project mentor in Kenya.
- Intermediary not up to the job in Guatemala university project.
- No Canada Summer Jobs funding for a second year in a row.
- Loss of donated office space (upside is a significant decrease in overhead).
- Health and other personal issues for directors and their families.

Discussion:

The first of the challenges above, the failure of the “new funding model” for Kenyan university students, resulted in significantly increased costs for the Kenyan scholarship program. Fortunately (sort of), much of the increase is deferred until graduation for the new beneficiaries.

Given the uncertainty about the Kenyan funding model, the loss of a major donor, and the unreliability of our intermediary in Guatemala, funding of projects outside Kenya was paused in early 2024.

The new project launched in Kenya in 2024, the TIES of Kenya “Digital Skills Project”, also hit a major stumbling block when the consultant and mentor for the project passed away unexpectedly at a young age. Unfortunately, some prepaid hosting and consulting fees also died with him.

The net result of the above project costs and funding was that 97.5% of all project costs went to the Kenya University Scholarships project, while only 2.5% of our 2024 charitable expenses went to the Digital Skills Project (also in Kenya). Future project costs that will or might become due in coming years also accrued, although the exact amounts are not known, and these contingent costs are not on the balance sheet since TIES financial statements are prepared on a cash basis.

Certainly, “the best of times” came with the graduation of our first two Kenyan university beneficiaries late in 2024. All of the significant challenges in the first 11 months of the year were, however, “the worst of times”.

Compare to 2023's impact (from the TIES 2023 T3010):

Ongoing programs:

TIES delivered significant and measurable benefits to students in developing countries through three ongoing projects in 2023: 1) TIES began sponsoring indigenous Mayan girls for vocational high school programs at the Ak' Tenamit School in Sarstun, Guatemala in mid-2021. All current students are doing well in their programs. 2) The largest TIES project in 2023 was the Kenya University Scholarships Project that began in September, 2021. In 2023, TIES added four more beneficiaries to the eight that were admitted to the program in 2021. 3) The CAUSE Canada Afterschool Program in Sierra Leone that we funded in late 2022 wrapped up another successful year.

New programs:

TIES initiated one new program in 2023. A graduate of the Ak' Tenamit School in Guatemala was accepted into university, and we began a Guatemala University Scholarship pilot program.