

# Increasing Opportunity for Female Dropouts Through Online Education in Zimbabwe

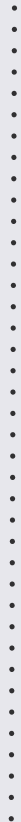
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## Problem

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**Worldwide, 129.2 million girls are out of school. 96.9 million are of secondary school age.**

Due to early pregnancies, lack of resources and money, and cultural norms, girls worldwide are unable to complete their education. Without a formal education, the jobs available to women are very limited. With so many uneducated and unable to participate in the economy, an entire country can be affected.



## Opportunity

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**By providing an online education geared towards girls who dropped out, we can affect an entire country.**

Through material and curriculums supplied by a sister school, concise standard courses and elective classes, including health and entrepreneurship, can be created. Courses delivered through digital libraries will equip young women with the tools needed for their future and issued certificates will allow them to broaden their job search.



## Outcome

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**Providing dropout the opportunity to complete their secondary schooling online and train them in digital skills will break the cycle of poverty.**

Through partnerships with CreateZim and US-ACF, we can deliver the materials and give young women the education they deserve. This education will improve the individual lives of these women, and also the entire country.

A young man in a school uniform stands in a field at sunset, holding the hand of a smaller child. The scene is dimly lit, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky with some clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

# Problem Analysis

# Dropouts in Secondary School impact many young women worldwide.



**99.4% of women in rural communities do not complete secondary schooling globally**

1

This is a global issue — women around the world, especially in developing countries, do not have access to quality education. **Women are not encouraged to pursue their education** because of low quality education combined with stigma, and rather become wives and mothers from a very young age.

2

**Female dropout rates in secondary school are significantly higher than those of girls in primary schooling.** By targeting girls who drop out during secondary schooling years, which has a major influence on women's development for the future, we can create the largest impact.

3

These **dropouts occur at a vulnerable age** and young women between the ages 15 and 19 are influenced by many factors including teenage pregnancies, abuse, child marriages, malnutrition, and household work.

# Leading Causes of High Dropout Rates

## Financial burden of schools on families force daughters to drop out

In rural Zimbabwe, secondary schooling costs \$120 per year. With **75% of families living under the extreme poverty line** (at about \$250), receiving an education is less of a priority than subsistence including food and shelter due to the significant price.

## Lack of teachers and learning material dissuade students from continuing their education

There is a lack of resources provided by the Zimbabwean government in the education sector which doesn't keep the curriculum up to date. A drastic **45,000 out of 100,000** teachers left their profession in the early 2000s leaving students with no guidance for their future.

## Teenage pregnancies and child marriages oblige girls to drop out during secondary school

In Zimbabwe in 2019, **over 7,000 girls** (6,419 from secondary school alone) dropped out due to teenage pregnancy and early marriages. Lack of health information not only leads to increased dropout rates, but also serious health complications.

## Women are discouraged from pursuing education as "their only purpose is to be a wife and mom"

**The majority of the parent population in rural Zimbabwe would rather send their son over their daughter to school.** As they believe that women are inferior and should be submission to their future husbands, girls are forced to drop out.



# Dropping out of school has an effect upon a girl's present lifestyles and their potential for growth in the future.



“These girls lose sight of their future.” - Nyasha Goredema

1

## Girls assume increased responsibility at home

On a daily basis after dropping out, girls need to conduct chores including cook, clean, take care of family members and farm to ensure access to food and finances. Additionally, as women are more likely to get pregnant at a younger age and have to prioritize taking care of their family

2

## Women resort to labor jobs and prostitution to support their family

With no education, finding quality jobs is difficult so they support themselves and their families through **labor intensive jobs in agriculture and even prostitution**. This is further compounded due to a lack in financial independence as they may also be immediately forced into abusive marriages.

3

## Mental health and independence diminishes

Mental health also has an impact on these women as poverty increases the risk of mental health problems due to the physical environment and socioeconomic effects upon their life. Poverty adds to the issue as women are unable to pay for medical fees in the future or may result in high debt.

**Teenage pregnancy, lack of education, and health and financial security are all intertwined. These factors exponentially worsen and influence each other across generations.**



### Teenage Pregnancy

Teenage Pregnancy rates in Zimbabwe are incredibly high, ~ 83 pregnancies per 1000 teens. Worldwide, this number is much lower, at 42 per 1000 teens. High teen pregnancy rates result in health complications and denial of education for both mother and child.



### Denial of Education

Early pregnancies lead to high dropout rates and girls never receive the full education they are entitled to. Family responsibilities and finances become a priority and there is a stigma surrounding going back to school. As women cannot work higher paying jobs, her child will once again be less likely to complete school



### Poverty

After never receiving a full education, girls have limited access to jobs. This leads to financial and food instability and the inability to provide their children with quality education, which only continues the cycle.

# A woman's poor education makes it difficult to find her ambitions and inhibits a her success to safely integrate into economy.

60.2% of women with a secondary education or higher have professional positions compared to 1.1% who did not complete secondary education.

Girls who drop out before reaching A-levels (12th Grade), never receive the opportunity to pursue and area of study they are passionate. Additionally, some societies believe women should not receive higher educations because they will gain knowledge and not be submissive to their future husband. **When girls do not have an ambition, they lose purpose in life.** Women who have not completed secondary education are less likely to enter managerial and professional positions and are more likely to enter agriculture and sales and services. Many women are not even aware of their full potential.



# As women are directed away from continuing school and entering into the workforce, the national economy faces losses



## 98.9% of female secondary dropouts don't hold professional positions

Jobs with a larger male populated workforce, specifically in highly technical fields are common. **The ratio of men to women in STEM jobs is 54% to 46%.** The addition of women to these workforces increases potential for greater technological development.



## \$2.6B is lost in GDP

**\$2.6 billion lost of GDP without women in the workforce.** These losses can be attributed to a lack of women in education. High dropout rates result in substantial losses to the economy and GDP. Over 12% increase of GDP when women are further introduced into the economy.



## National development is restricted due to lack of growth in women's entering into the economy

By introducing women into the larger economy: awakening curiosities within wider population that is inclusive of women. Allowing generations and work forces to develop proper personal interests for the benefit of the country as a whole. Improving the attitudes and values of the people.



## Future generations are susceptible to dropping out

Children and future generations become stuck in the cycle and are unable to complete education in relation to national development and investing in future generations who will have large impacts on the development of technology and the future. No educated children means no proper development

# Current Government Structures Do Not Provide Adequate Resources to Promote Education for Young Women.



## Governments Actions and Policies Do Not Work Effectively

Although primary education within rural areas remains free, secondary education is still expensive. In addition, families must contribute to monetary funds to provide infrastructure for schools .

**The inability to enforce and monitor policies to encourage women to stay in schools makes them ineffective.**

## Government Discourages Reintegration into Education System

**Current education structures still preserve many societal and cultural issues.** Stigma and social norms ingrained within school systems often deny girls their rightful education. The lasting stigma surrounding girls who drop out due to teenage pregnancies further limits them from returning to school.

# Pilot Program in Rural Manicaland, Zimbabwe would be ideal due to the present existing infrastructure needed to combat issue

*There are many opportunities for growth within rural communities to foster modern development, specifically in the education system. Our solution will leverage this potential in rural areas. Rural Manicaland has the existing infrastructure that is needed to implement a solution to unlock untapped potential and the right place for a pilot program to address the digital gender divide.*



## 27.7% of teenage girls are child-bearing

In Manicaland, 27.7% of all teenage girls ages 15-19 are child-bearing. These incredibly high birth rates reflect upon the high dropout rates in the region of Manicaland. Due to these rates, Manicaland is an area of high potential for growth.



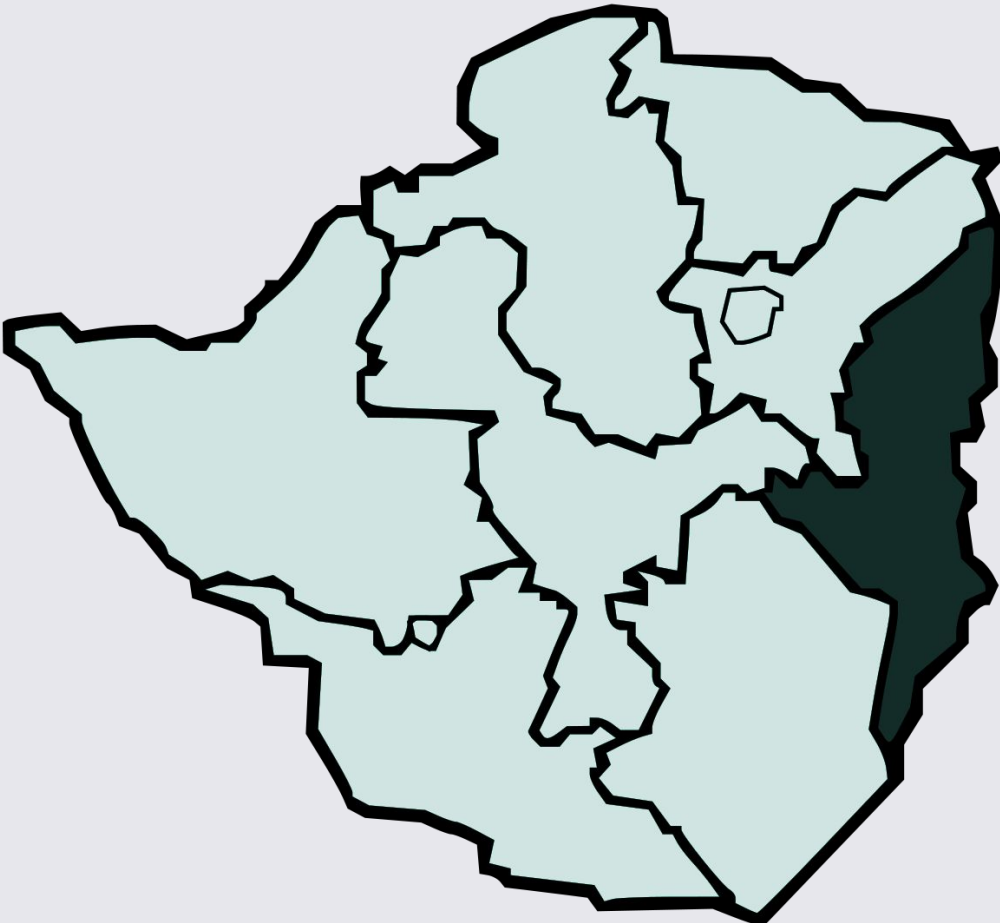
## 1.1% of girls complete secondary education

Only 1.1% of girls in Manicaland complete secondary education. This leaves a lot of room for improvement as very few girls actually go on to higher levels of education. These rates demonstrate the lack of empowerment and proper role models for these young women.



## 95% access to mobile phones means higher potential for solution

95% of women have access to mobile phones in Manicaland. This is a major area to maximize in the implementation of a pilot program. This means that young women participating in the pilot program will not have to be concerned about where they can access the necessary resources.



A group of diverse children, including a young girl in the foreground with her hand near her mouth, all smiling. The image is dimmed and has the text 'Our Solution' overlaid in white.

# Our Solution

# Enabling women to complete secondary education through online traditional and elective courses via WiFi Hotspot with a digital library.



1

Providing a continuation of secondary education through traditional courses

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2

Elective Courses encourage women's individual passions and introduction to the workforce.

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3

Providing internet access to allow women to download courses and other resources

A young girl with colorful braids is the central focus of the image. She is looking slightly to the right. The background shows other children in a classroom setting, but they are out of focus. The overall image has a dark, semi-transparent overlay.

1

**Providing a continuation of  
secondary education through  
traditional courses**

# St. Georges Private Secondary School will provide the curriculum, guidance, and certification



## Provide Outline Material for Core Curriculum

The sister school will provide the outline for the continuation of secondary core curriculum and certificates. This will later be compressed to fit the shortened course.



## Provide mentors for students

One source of dropping out is due to insufficient teachers; school will provide an opportunity to buddy up with a student/teacher at the school for check ins and mentorship. Students can now have a role model and seek guidance



## Gives Certificate of Completion

Once courses are completed and required exams are taken, sister school will provide the girls with official certificates of completion through the Cambridge I-GSCE exams.

# Altering Course Material from St. George's to Cater Towards Needs of Dropouts



## Shorten length of each curriculum to 75hrs

The length of the traditional course curriculum normally taught in schools will be condensed to 75 hours of video content for an entire year. This allows for flexibility within their studies.



## Asynchronous content developed for quick absorption

The educational resources including videos and podcasts are designed in such a way that allows women to complete tasks while listening and absorbing the information. Videos are short but designed in tactical ways that provide as much information.



## Provide comprehension analysis to assess understanding

Effort is taken into ensuring these women fully understand the course curriculum and are able to apply the skills they have learned in the real world.



## Provide check-in times to increase motivation

Online forums allow for virtual connection across the province. This encourages a sense of community and fosters a collaborative mindset amongst the women. Weekly cohort check-ins will be available for women to stay in touch and determine personal goals.

# Enrollees will get option to choose timeline to complete courses to be eligible for exams and receive an official certificate

To be eligible to take exams and receive a certificate of completion for our courses, students need to satisfy the subject requirements stated by the Zimbabwean government.

The shortest amount of time one year course can be compressed into is 75 hours of video content, not including quizzes, projects, or reading material.

On this slide we outline different timelines these women can follow to complete their courses.

They will have the option to choose which timeline to follow during the registration process.

<p><b>3 years</b></p> <p>1hr/day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ No breaks</li><li>✓ Needs to complete part of course every day</li><li>✓ For someone with small amount of time everyday</li></ul>	<p>RECOMMENDED</p> <p>Custom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Custom create timeline</li><li>✓ Finish courses at own pace to fit with their needs</li><li>✓ Can take breaks when needed</li></ul>	<p><b>2 years</b></p> <p>2hr/weekday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 2 day breaks</li><li>✓ Fast paced</li><li>✓ For someone with busy weekend schedules</li></ul>
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A group of women are standing outdoors in a grassy area. Some are wearing headwraps and carrying items on their heads. One woman in the center is holding a large white bag. Another woman on the right is holding a blue grid chart. The background shows trees and a building.

2

**Elective Courses encourage women's individual passions and introduction to the workforce.**

# Partnering with CreateZim for Elective Courses



In partnership with CreateZim, we can provide access to elective courses, volunteers on the ground, prepared to support the communities of women, surveys and data development to better understand what communities want and funding through donors.

CreateZim is a non-profit organization based in Zimbabwe aimed at promoting optimal mental health and reducing the overall stigma around the topic. In order to reduce the stigma centering around mental health, CreateZim aims to openly address the subject through various methods which include online platforms, zoom discussions and online workshops.

# When Integrated into the Traditional Curriculum, CreateZim's Elective Courses Will Prepare Women for Entering the Digital Economy



## Entrepreneurship

Women's employment directly impacts the economy of a country. Women in leadership and key employment areas contributes greatly to GDP and economic growth. Additionally, teaching women the skills necessary to become financially independent benefits not only them, but **future generation of women and children.**



## Health

In 2019, **over 7,000 girls (6,419 from secondary school) dropped out due to teenage pregnancy and early marriages.** Additionally, malnutrition is also a leading factor for dropouts. By educating women about reproductive health, family planning, and nutrition we are able to improve their quality of life as well as their future generations'.



## Empowerment

**"Women are not taught to have an ambition"** - Tawanashe Makuvasa  
Unfortunately, many girls in Zimbabwe believe that their responsibility as a woman is to be a wife and mother -- having dreams is considered impractical. An empowerment course, addressing topics like mental health and philosophy will encourage many to pursue their dreams.



## Specialized STEM

In Zimbabwe, students are not introduced to advanced STEM classes until their A-level classes. However, most women never even reach A-level education. By introducing them to the field at younger age, **women are more inclined to pursue their dreams.**

# CreateZim Example Entrepreneurship Course Layout

## Understanding the Concept of Entrepreneurship

*Definition of entrepreneurship; reasons for entering the field. Setting personal goals for the upcoming learning period. Basic skills necessary: Communication, problem-solving, design thinking skills & resources, math skills. Concept of the economy, cost and government in the economy.*

01

## Types of Ownership & Business Plan Design

*Types of entrepreneurship in the economy.  
Focus specifically on Small Business  
Ownership and managing existing businesses. Developing an effective business plan and the importance. Market assessment and targeting consumers.*

02

03

## Financial Literacy and Independence

*Understanding the 5 core elements of financial literacy: earning, saving and investing, spending, borrowing, protecting. Understanding elements of security for both present and future: control on a daily and monthly basis, absorbing financial shock. Freedom of choice for both present and future: daily choices, meeting financial goals.*

04

## Marketing a Business, Record Keeping

*Develop an understanding of product cost, distribution of products, promotion of products, setting marketing goals. Importance of keeping records and accounting for product development.*

05

## Financial Management of Business & Utilizing Technology

*Understanding and analyzing financial performances. Management of cash flow Relations and benefits of technology in the business. Final Project?*

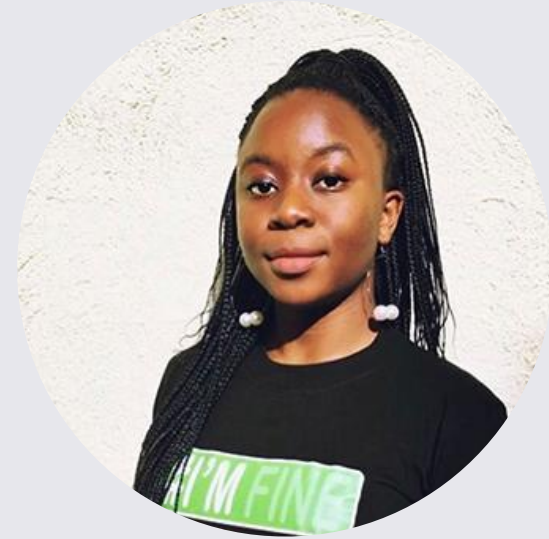
# Who to Contact for CreateZim

*During our multiple meetings, Zvikomborero and Nyasha expressed great enthusiasm in partnering with the United Nations Women to carry out this project and supply volunteers or resources.*



**Zvikomborero Nyika**

Co-founder of ZimCreate  
Launched CreateZim in 2018 and  
aims to continue the project in  
Zimbabwe and other countries.



**Nyasha Goredema**

Co-founder of ZimCreate  
Launched CreateZim in 2018 and  
aims to continue the project in  
Zimbabwe and other countries.

A photograph of four women sitting outdoors in a natural setting. The woman on the far left is wearing a patterned grey and blue headscarf and a matching patterned dress, smiling. The woman next to her is wearing a black top and a teal skirt, holding a smartphone. The woman in the center is wearing a blue headscarf and a blue top, looking towards the camera. The woman on the far right is wearing an orange headscarf and a colorful patterned dress, smiling. A white circle with the number '3' is overlaid on the image.

3

**Providing internet access to  
allow women to download  
courses and other resources**

# Partnering with US-ACF and the Bridge Project for Devices and data/internet access

The US-Africa Children's Fellowship (US-ACF) aims to provide tools for children to learn and thrive in some of the least resourced schools in Africa. Their programs work to abolish poverty and illiteracy while **promoting alternative education**.

One such program, called the Bridge Project, has been implemented in Zimbabwe in the past. The Bridge Project is targeted towards students and teachers who have **limited or no access to internet**. The project supplies Bridge Project Learning Centers (BPLCs) in schools through devices called Bridge Pis.

The Bridge Project has also established BPLC initiatives in Ghana and South Africa. Because of the gender specific digital divide, The Bridge Project makes it a **priority to empower girls and women** in information and communication technology (ICT). Making this a priority will improve educational outcomes of both teachers and students.





# Each Bridge Pi device creates a wifi hotspot that enables 30+ devices unlimited, free access to the materials saved on the devices



## Kept in Municipal buildings for easy access

Our 30 targeted girls in the area will travel within 50 meters of the Bridge Pi to connect and download the course content needed for the week



## Digital libraries that will hold course content

Our solution will leverage these devices as a means to distribute the courses. We will provide girls who dropped out a “digital library” on a Bridge Pi device, complete with our pre-recorded courses to ensure they receive the education they deserve.



## Even with no internet, students can download content

Using a low-power Raspberry Pi computer that has built-in WiFi, the Bridge Pi device has the ability to run a website and deliver web pages and media such as videos and audio. This will give us a way to provide courses in areas with no internet access.

# Cost of Bridge Pi Devices

Comparing different BPLC plans based on impact and price.

<p><b>Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Bridge Pi Device</li><li>- Courses</li></ul> <p>Standard</p> <p><b>\$250</b></p>	<p><b>Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Bridge Pi Device</li><li>- Courses</li><li>- Awareness Campaign</li></ul> <p>Medium</p> <p><b>\$750</b></p>	<p><b>Includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Bridge Pi Device</li><li>- Courses</li><li>- Awareness Campaign</li><li>- Workshops</li><li>- M&amp;E semi-annual visits</li></ul> <p>Largest Impact</p> <p><b>\$2,250</b></p>
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## Components

- **Hardware Costs: \$250**
- **Awareness Campaign: \$500**
- **Training and technical support workshops: \$500**
- **Five semi-annual visits: \$1,000**

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The five semi-annual visits will be for volunteers who have experience with technical support. These visits will be called Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) visits.

Sponsors and supporters of the Bridge Project have a large, visible impacts for a modest price tag. The budget for establishing BPLCs ranges depending on how remote the location is. The costs listed above are calculated for a site within approximately a 2 hour drive.

# Who to Contact for the Bridge Pi Project

*During our meeting, Bob and Manning expressed great interest in partnering with the United Nations to carry out this project and supply devices.*



**Bob Rollins**

Bridge Project Director  
Launched USACF's Bridge Project in  
2016 and growing the project in  
Zimbabwe and other countries.



**Manning Sutton**

Bridge Project Director of Design and Engineer  
Launched USACF's Bridge Project in  
2016 and growing the project in  
Zimbabwe and other countries.

# Implementation of Solution

1

Acquire Finances

2

Market Program

3

Deploy Solution

# Market Program to Dropouts Through CreateZim's Pre-existing Connections and Platforms



## Specifically working to raise awareness of program amongst young women improves awareness

Hotspots for Marketing on the ground within the areas we are targeting. How Create Zim plans to market through social media and through company connections. Breaking down the barriers to reach to parents to overcome cultural boundaries and build trust between the users.



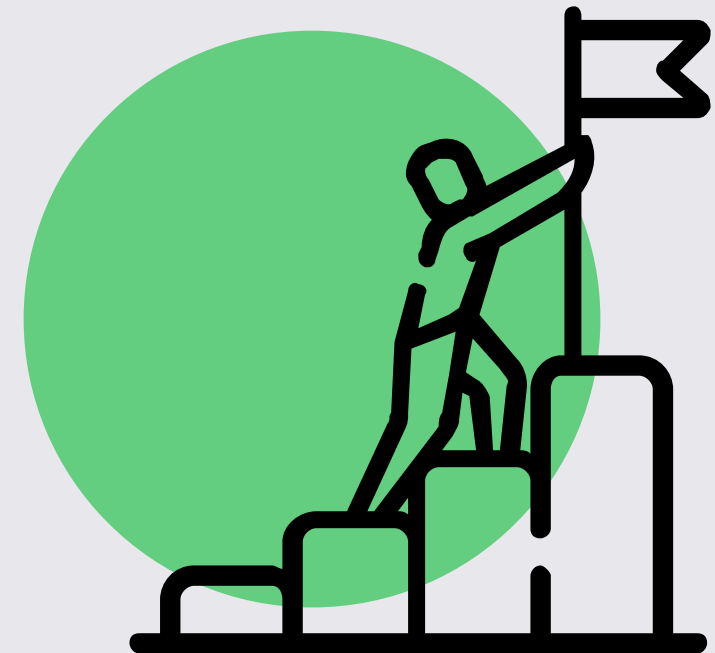
## Utilizing large social media platforms to target demographics of women

One way we will reach young women is through social media. CreateZim has an instagram account with almost 8,000 followers meaning they possess a wide reaching market of individuals on a national level.



## On the ground marketing builds relationships and trust with consumers

CreateZim will also provide on-the-ground support by marketing through various hotspots in the province of Manicaland, meeting the potential women who will utilize the program and understanding their needs.

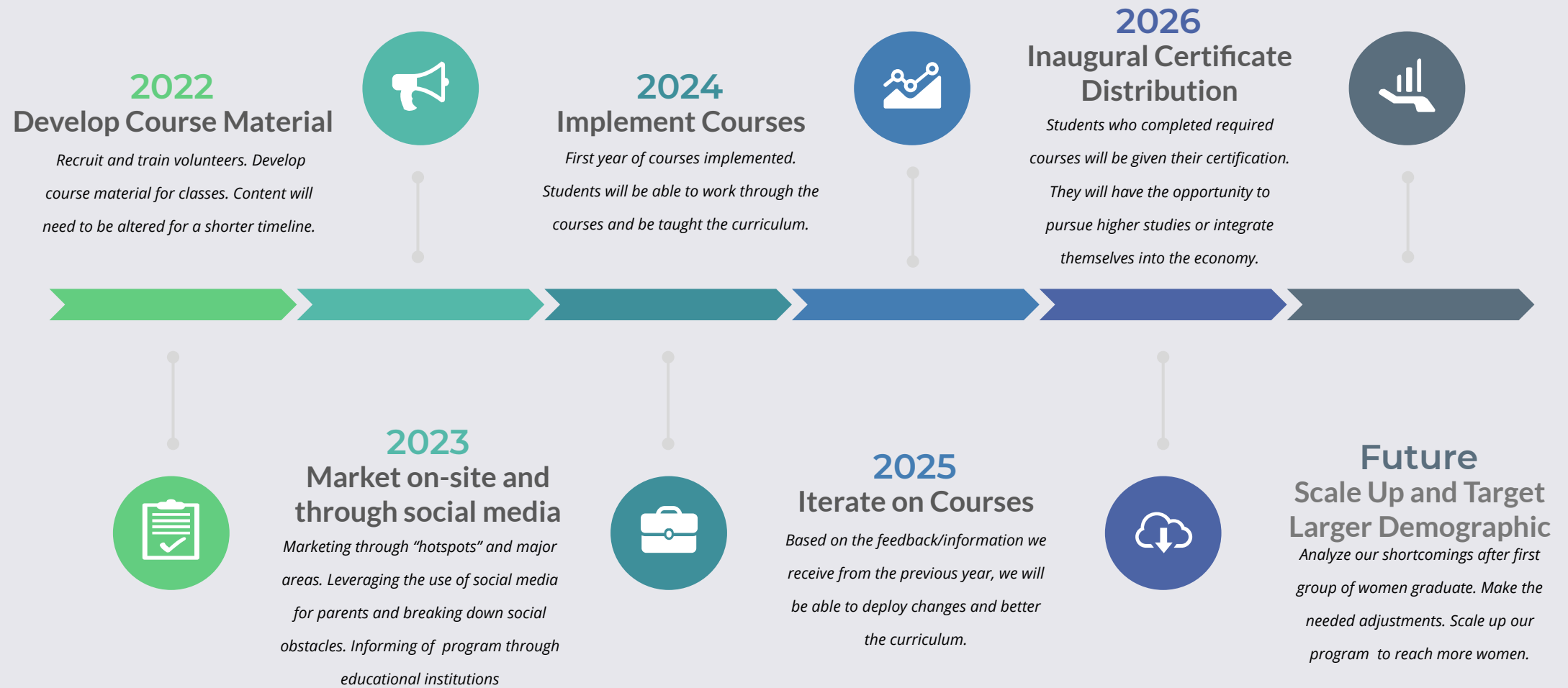


An aerial photograph of a village with several traditional huts featuring conical thatched roofs. The huts are clustered together, and there are many trees scattered throughout the settlement. The overall scene is captured in a dark, muted color palette, giving it a somber or historical feel.

3

# Deploy Solution

# Five Year Implementation Plan of Solution



# Course development through the use of volunteers for both core curriculum and electives



## Sister School will provide Course Volunteers for Core Curriculum

Educators at the sister schools will provide us with teachers, recording videos, mentors. Educational volunteers from local, regional and international levels with expertise in the specialized areas of study and core material provided by the program.



## Champions and Technical Workshops: CreateZim & BridgeProject

People on the ground, marketing, staying the first few weeks when being implemented. During the first few steps of implementation of the pilot program, volunteers will be setting up the Bridge Pi devices, organizing cohorts of women, running workshops and M&E visits, etc.



# Install Courses and Increase Interest through Bridge Pi

Before Bridge Pis can be accessible to our students to download courses off of, there are a few steps that need to come before hand. Volunteers will be needed to conduct the initial setup of the Bridge Pis. Once the set-up is done, they will need technical support for program architecture and other troubleshooting the devices.



## Installing Courses onto Device

The prerecorded elective and formal courses from CreateZim and the St George's College will be installed on the Raspberry Pi. They will be made available offline to download.



## Find busy Site to place Bridge Pi

Devices will be kept Municipal Buildings, where our 30 targeted girls in the area will travel within 50 meters of the Bridge Pi to connect. They will download the course content they need for the day/week and then they can leave the 50 meter radius.



## Building Bridge Pis with students to increase interest

Volunteers will make the trip to our chosen area in Manicaland with supplies. Girls who are in the program will have a workshop session where they will build the devices and connect their mobile phones for the first time.

# Woman will need to follow this simple process to receive their secondary education



## Enroll into Courses

Prior to entering into the program, the women will go through a process of registration, determining whether they are interested and/or eligible to enroll. This allows the volunteers to understand where to allocate resources and deploy the Bridge Pi devices.



## Take Courses at Own Pace

After the registration process, women will proceed with their courses. In addition to the traditional courses, the women will be able to select elective courses of their interest for extra credit. This will teach them to develop and understand their potential interests.



## Track Pace through Bridge Pi

Users gain access to a user interface through the Bridge Pi and the WiFi enabled device in possession. This interface allows users to track their progress and interact with other women using the interface. Furthermore, they will be able to set and keep track of individual goals and begin any course of their interest.



## Take Exams to Obtain Certificate

After completion of courses, they must take the Cambridge I-GSCE Exams to receive credit for the completion of specified schooling. When student takes exams, in subjects like Maths and English Literature, and passes, then they will be rewarded with the certificate of completion of schooling. With this paper, the women are now free to pursue higher education at university and have job access.

# Finances that will be provided through each partnerships

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Our total calculated investment for the solution amounts to \$152,000.00

01

Finances will be allocated through grants and donors who support the organization of CreateZim. Funds will be administered towards these courses to ensure that the necessary resources that are required can be provided.

02

By first identifying the capital needs of the program and understanding the economic makeup of the areas we are targeting through surveys provided by CreateZim, we are able to better understand where and how funds will be allocated.





# Obstacles to Implementation



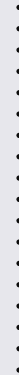
## Women are unable to take time for themselves due to the amount of tasks

**Considering the numerous responsibilities of women** who have dropped out, including tending to families and taking up labor intensive jobs, it can be difficult. Finding more than an hour a day to allocate to our courses may not be possible. Spending less than an hour a day on courses will make the amount of time it takes to graduate seem overwhelming.



## Traditional beliefs in gender prevent women from gaining opportunities in education

**Deep-rooted ideologies on traditional gender norms** are not only an obstacle for women themselves but also when implementing a solution. At times, parents and husbands of the women significantly impact the choices these women make and their growth in the future. Limited discussion on the importance of the career sector and developing skills in the workforce is also an important factor.



A group of diverse children, mostly of African descent, are smiling and looking towards the camera. They are wearing light blue shirts. The image is dimmed and has a dark overlay. The word "Outcome" is centered in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**Outcome**

# Educating Women Will Boost the Economy



01

## Job Opportunities

When provided a complete education, these women will have a broader range of job opportunities. This will lead to higher rates of employment across all fields.

02

## Increased Female GDP

With women working in more diverse fields, female GDP will grow exponentially. This will cause the entire country's GDP to increase significantly.

03

## Rural-Urban Linkage

As more women are educated and participating in the digital economy, connections between rural and urban regions will strengthen. Strengthening these connections will overall boost the economy.

04

## Foreign Investors

As the job market expands due to increased skilled women in the workforce, foreign investors will take the initiative to invest within these regions resulting in an increase in economic activity.

**With a secondary education, new job opportunities will be available which will increase income and end poverty.**



## **Managerial Jobs**

*With the qualifications they've earned, women will be able to have jobs as managers, advisors, specialists, administrators, etc. These kinds of jobs will give them a better salary and more responsibility.*

## **Technical Jobs**

*With higher education and certification, women will have more chances to become engineers, technicians, analysts, programmers, etc. These jobs will introduce them to more type of technology and help in developing the country as a whole.*

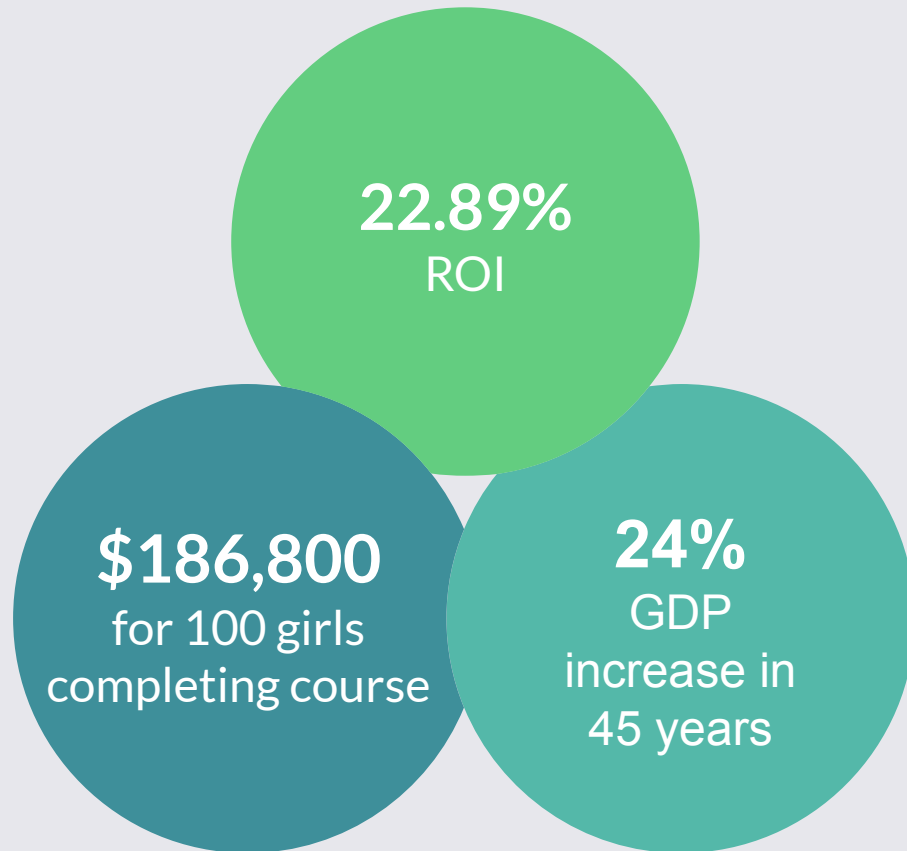
# With the addition of women to the economy, there will be an exponential increase in GDP



*“Women account for half of the population of Africa but only contribute 33% of the continent’s GDP. The Economist estimates that just by educating women we will increase Africa’s GDP by over 10%. Educating girls is a strategic benefit and development priority. Better educated women tend to be healthier, participate more in the formal labor market, earn higher incomes, have fewer children, marry later age and enable healthcare and education for their children.”*

**Zvikomborero Nyika**  
Co-founder of CreateZim

The initial return on investment is 22.89%. As more women are educated the benefits will increase exponentially.



### Costs of Investment

Over the period of the five years of the pilot program, investments, including BridgePi devices and marketing, equate to \$152,000.



### Economic Benefit outcomes

Outcomes of the solution take into account the direct and indirect benefits to the economy from educating these girls. Increase in average gross income contributions are assessed and the overall GDP increase in the following five years. Overall benefits to the economy amount to a total of **\$186,800.00**



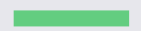
### Return on Investment

The net economic benefits amount to \$34,000.00 which translates to 22.89% for Return on Investment

[\\*Click here to see full calculations on Economic Analysis](#)



# Increased Health Awareness



*The health course electives are some of the most impactful of all the courses offered. The physical health course will provide information about reproductive systems, menstruation and female health, self care, disease, and dietary planning and nutrition. The mental health course will aim to decrease mental health stigma by providing a safe space to talk and providing information about family planning, female empowerment, humanities, social development, and sexual assault.*



### **Lower Teen Birth Rates**

*One reason teenage birth rates are so high is due to the lack of information available. Increased health awareness will help women to make more informed decisions.*



### **Increased Productivity and Empowerment**

*Mental health and empowerment education provides a platform for women to have a voice and become more aware.*



### **Reducing Period Poverty**

*Education surrounding menstruation and providing methods in which women and young girls are still able to attend school and work without restrictions.*

# Improving Financial Stability for Women

## Small Business Ownerships

Entrepreneurship education allows for women to not only become educated and gain entrepreneurial skills but also utilize those skills by engaging in small business ownership. Selling sustainably produced products will help build resilient communities.



## Financial Independence

Financial literacy education as well as entrepreneurship classes educates women on the concepts of finances and the path to become more financially independent. Women no longer have to fully depend upon external resources of support.



## Prepared for divorce

Societal boundaries include that of divorce and becoming a widow. Due to cultural norms, in many of these cases the husband's family gets all of the money leaving the woman in an unstable financial position. Preparation for financial shock prepares women for these experiences.



## Provide for children

The cycle of poverty is further broken as women are able not only support themselves but also their children. By possessing the knowledge of banking and handling funds, women have the ability to support themselves and their children in stable ways.



**With educated women, there will be a brighter future and a boosted economy. It will leave a lasting affect across generations.**



### **Educated Women**

Better educated women will be healthier, participate more in the formal labor market, earn higher incomes, have fewer children, marry later age and enable healthcare and education for their own children.



### **Boosted Economy**

When provided a complete education, women will have a broader range of job opportunities. This will lead to higher rates of employment across all fields.



### **Brighter Future**

New generations will grow up with both parents fully educated. This will set good role models and inspire kids to follow their ambitions and dream big.

# Preparing Future Generations



# On a more personal note

*This challenge opportunity was incredibly eye-opening. It was an amazing growth and learning experience. We hope that you find our recommendations helpful and that we can help contribute to this increasing challenge that have impacted many worldwide. If you have any questions regarding our recommendations, feel free to reach out to us through LinkedIn.*

*Thank you for this incredible opportunity!*



Harichandana  
Kothamasu



Kayla Johnson



Simone Lilavois



Shalmalee  
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