



**IPA** international  
publishers  
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Educational Publishers Forum

case  
study

# Bringing quality digital resources and technology into the classroom

The Government of Kenya's Digital Literacy Programme (DLP) aims to enable every pupil to use technology for learning. The government realised however that digital devices alone are not enough and collaborated with Kenyan publishers and teachers to ensure a range of educational resources will be available at launch in July 2019.



## **KENYA - Country Profile**

**Population:** 48,397,527 (2018)

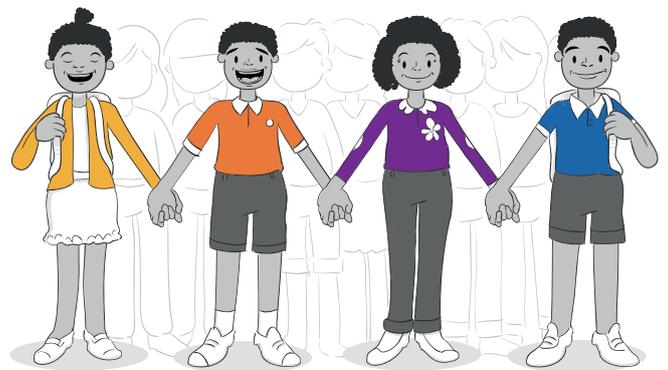
**Languages:** English, Kiswahili (both official), indigenous languages

**GDP:** 79.2 billion USD (2017)

**Education expenditures:** 5.2% of GDP

**Literacy:** 78% (2015)

**GDP Per Capita:** 3,500 USD (2017)



## **THE SITUATION IN KENYA**

In September 2016, after the successful completion of a pilot project, Kenya launched the nation-wide rollout of its DLP. The Programme introduces pupils to the use of digital technology and other communication tools in learning by providing laptops and tablet devices pre-loaded with interactive digital content in Math, English, Science and Kiswahili, to all primary school teachers and pupils to enhance their classroom experience.

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology leads the programme and also funds schools to specifically procure approved digital educational content. The objective standards for approval were developed and agreed by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) in collaboration with publishers and schools. Curriculum reforms are ongoing with regular meetings held with publishers and the Digital Content Creators Alliance.

**“The development of this programme alongside a comprehensive ‘instructional materials policy’ will create the right environment for educational publishers to provide the best materials to teachers and pupils. ”**

*Lawrence Njagi, Chairman, Kenya Publishers Association*

## RESULTS

Fast forward nearly 3 years and the first results are coming through. Such a giant leap into digital teaching requires significant investment in infrastructure (6,000km of fibre to ensure internet connectivity in all public primary schools), devices and training. Over 91,000 teachers have been trained to deliver digital learning to pupils. More than 89.2 % of all the public primary schools have been supplied with over 1 million devices installed for learners, teachers and the schools themselves. The number of schools assessed for e-readiness for Phase II is 15,604 and 11,961 schools are e-ready to implement the programme.



### Locally relevant content

The Government’s approach means 20 Kenyan publishers have directly licensed approximately 100 educational resources to schools (including textbooks and interactive content) available at the Kenya Education Cloud.



### Collaboration

Collaboration between government agencies, publishers and teachers ensures the most effective development of digital textbooks and teacher training materials.



### Choice

The DLP content portal includes content from multiple sources for classes 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8. Devices are preloaded with content including interactive content in 5 subjects (Kiswahili, English, Mathematics, Science and Social studies). This content is also available to visually impaired pupils.

## CONCLUSION

The Kenyan government has undertaken a massive infrastructure and education project as part of its efforts to transform the country into a knowledge-based economy and a world class centre in ICT. They also recognised that ensuring availability of the right educational resources after the infrastructure installation and equipment purchases required collaboration with publishers to ensure that a range of locally adapted content would be available to teachers. An added benefit of including digital resources within the education system has been to improve the accessibility of resources to more pupils, as demonstrated by the work of Nairobi-based eKitabu, recipient of WIPO’s Accessible Books Consortium Excellence Award in 2019.