



Elimu Resource Centre

## **CISCO CLASS OF 2020 GRADUATION – FINALLY!**

Despite the challenges, Elimu guided over 30 young people through our Cisco Networking Academy in 2020 – our first full year of operation. During the COVID-19 lockdowns, our Cisco Instructor did his best to keep our students motivated – keeping in touch with them at home and encouraging those who could to keep up their online studies from their homes. It was a joy and a relief when we were allowed to bring them back to the Centre in October under strict protocols.

This year on May 6th, we held a small but high energy graduation ceremony. On the graduate list were many young women – a testament to our instructor's efforts to encourage girls in the community to take up IT. These graduates are now internationally recognized Cisco technicians able to manage a variety of software programs and do maintenance of hardware. For many this was their first hands-on experience with computers. Elimu is proud to be preparing youth in Malindi for their futures in which technology will be part of everyday life.

## **ANTHONY UNLEASHES THE "GEEK" IN MALINDI YOUTH**



*"I am always glad to help them find the next thing and make the right decisions for their future."*

Meet Anthony – Elimu's IT Officer and Cisco Instructor. He joined us in 2019 after university to launch our Cisco Networking Academy. Since then it has been "up, up and away".

We started with IT Essentials, a course that covers all the basics of operating and maintaining a computer. Today, Elimu Resource Centre offers a long list of valuable IT courses, like Cyber Security and Internet of Things. We are the only Cisco NetAcad in Malindi. We especially target youth after high school. So many high school graduates never even handled a computer at home or at school.

Our goal is to give them the digital skills they need before they continue with their jobs and future studies. In just 3 months, for as little as \$160 per course, our students get themselves up to par with their privileged counterparts in society. With this course, the graduate is an official internationally recognized IT technician. Several of our graduates have already found work with this certificate on their resumes! Others have simply discovered a love for IT and are now continuing with further studies towards a full-on career in Tech! It's Anthony's joy to unleash the "geek" in Malindi's youth!





### EXCITING NEW SPACE FOR SEWING ALUMNI



There will soon be an Artisan Maker Space at Elimu Resource Centre! This exciting new concept will give our budding sewing artisans access to a modern purpose-designed workspace with tools and digital resources they can't afford for themselves and won't find in their villages. This will be a huge boost to them and a great new way for us to keep connected with our alumni as they build their businesses. We will test it out with our alumni and then open it to the community at large. This way the Artisan Maker Space will become an income generator for Elimu's future sustainability.

### JUNE CAMPAIGN HIT THE TARGET!

We have already started setting up. The budget is just over \$27,000. By June, we were short only the last \$7,000 for the project. So we sent out a call and the response was amazing. Thanks to each and every one who contributed to making it a reality.

Our recent sewing graduates are so excited and can't wait to start making use of the equipment. For the first year of their new businesses, they will have free access. After that, with their businesses established, they will be able to afford the small access fee on their own. Along with the textile equipment, they will continue to use our computers and internet to research fashion ideas and learn new designs on their own. They are well equipped with these business skills from their two-year training program. We are looking forward to watching their transformation to leaders and role models in their communities with all that they have gained from Elimu.

### SEWING GRADUATES – FINALLY GET THEIR MACHINES

*"I could read hope all over their faces!"*

That was Cynthia's response as she watched Elimu's sewing graduates receive their sponsored sewing machines. Cynthia is Elimu's communications coordinator and she has the joy of engaging with our students to capture their stories in words and images.



This was a special cohort – they struggled through COVID-19 lockdowns and their final national exams were cancelled more than once. But they are also the first Elimu sewing students to gain skills for making hand-crafted ragdolls!

When the latest lockdown was lifted at the end of May, exams were re-scheduled for June. On July 7th, Elimu's sewing graduates (2020) finally received their sponsored sewing machines and prepared to start their sewing businesses. They spent that day at Elimu Resource Centre celebrating their success with the team. Elimu founder, Nina, Cindy, our partner in Los Angeles, and Dagang, who recently produced a video documentary on the Pendo doll story were all on-hand via Zoom to congratulate the girls and send them off with a few words of encouragement. [Click here](#) to hear in her own words what one of our graduates had to say about her new sewing machine!



## NEW DEVELOPMENTS AT ELIMU SEWING PROJECT!



At Elimu, we are building a learning community! We regularly learn from the kids in our projects too and that often drives our growth.

At Elimu Sewing Project we are currently working on these exciting new developments:

- Literacy lessons to build English skills
- A new alumni program for our graduates
- An exciting new Artisan Maker Space (read more in this newsletter)

We are seeking funds to develop our program and give these amazing benefits to girls who would otherwise only expect a future with no choices, no further education and no independence. We are changing that outcome but our girls have shown us that they need more support and we want to address their needs. Will you join us with a contribution to Elimu Sewing Project?



## PENDO ARTISAN RAGDOLLS TELL KENYAN GIRLS' STORIES

Pendo Artisan Ragdolls are designed and individually hand-sewn by Elimu sewing students and graduates. No two dolls are exactly the same. Their dresses are mini-renditions of designs by Shannon Ashford, owner of [Tomfoolery.la](https://tomfoolery.la) who worked with our students on garments for her Parish Fashion Week launch in 2019.

## AVAILABLE FOR A SHORT TIME ONLY

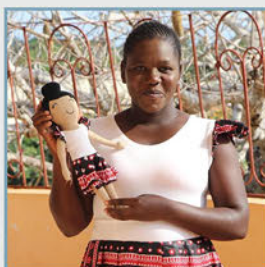
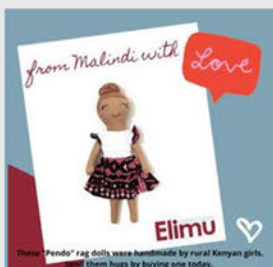
We have just 50 Pendo Artisan Ragdolls available in Canada.

For a donation of \$100 or more made on the link below, you can receive one Pendo Artisan Ragdoll and an official Canadian tax receipt valued at \$80.

### SUPPORT ELIMU SEWING PROJECT HERE

The balance is cost of production and includes a payment to the artisan herself. In some cases, this is the first income she will receive from her sewing skills. We will keep ordering ragdolls and hope to make Pendo a small part of getting our alumni's new sewing businesses established. (We hope to have more dolls available in November.)

**Pendo** means "love" in Swahili. We love what Pendo stands for. We hope you will too!





## TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM BOOSTS THIS GR. 8 CLASS

After six months out of school, Kenya's Gr. 8 and Gr. 12 classes returned to school last October. While the other grades remained at home, these students began the challenging preparations for their final national exams. They normally sit those exams in November, but this class of 2020 did their exams in April 2021!

The graduating class of St. Paul's Primary School returned to find their school digitized! Elimu set up the school as a pilot partner to work with Kolibri, an offline learning management platform that facilitates teachers to provide all kinds of useful digital resources for their students. With the initial COVID-19 shutdowns, our Elimu team immediately set out to create a long distance solution to keep kids connected with our digital resources. Elimu's Offline eLearning Innovation boosts our Kolibri server out to the community so that students with any wifi-enabled devices such as tablets, laptops or Smartphones can access the educational content and continue their learning. Over three days in April, the Gr. 8 class sat for their national exams. The results came out a month later and Principal, Mary Wamunyu was so pleased to announce the growth in their class average with two of their girls leading the way. [Click here](#) to watch as Madam Mary describes the impact of Elimu's innovation on her school.



## FUNDING NEED



The challenges under COVID-19 have been many. Students in Kenya lost almost a year of their studies. Now the government wants to make up the lost time.

During 2021 and 2022, we will have four semesters per year, instead of the usual three semesters. For our students, it means a marathon two years with less break time. For Elimu, it means an extra semester of school fees to pay. It's a budget hit of about \$8,000 this year and next (without taking on any new students).

We are reaching out early to cover semester four.

**Will you make a contribution?**

You can make a donation on our website at [www.elimu.ca](http://www.elimu.ca) or just [click here](#).

Your support will keep these kids in school and encourage them to persevere through these unprecedented times. Thank you to all who have brought us this far and especially through the pandemic to-date.

## ELIMU eMAGAZINE

Stay up-to-date with Elimu projects by following us online with our eMagazine.

Follow the stories in this newsletter and many more.

To read more, [CLICK HERE](#).

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