



Providing Teachers with IT Supporting Tools

Mesas de Acicaya Elementary School

Tipitapa, Nicaragua

Context & Problem

In Mesas de Acicaya, a rural community of Tipitapa, 5 elementary school teachers are facing a dual crisis of resource scarcity and aggressive digital migration. Earning an average of \$250 per month, these teachers are forced to spend approximately \$20 monthly (nearly 10% of their salary) simply to print mandatory educational statistics and administrative forms required by the Ministry of Education.



Furthermore, because the ministry is migrating to digital registries, teachers must compile reports on small mobile phones (when available) or travel 20 miles to the municipal seat. This journey is constrained by a single daily bus route, costing valuable time and money. Meanwhile, the surrounding community lacks any photocopy, scanning, or printing services, forcing local families to make the same arduous 40-mile round trip for basic legal and identity documentation.

The Project

This project introduces a dual-impact model that digitizes teacher workflows and establishes self-sustaining community micro business that will allow teachers to pay for ink, paper and other materials for quality teaching.

Component A: Computing Tools



- **Hardware:** 5 Android Tablet Kits (10-inch screens, protective stands, external keyboards, and mice). This creates an affordable, lightweight laptop alternative.
- **Workflow:** Teachers will utilize Google Workspace. Thanks to the reliable local cell network, they can work everywhere and seamlessly sync reports to the ministry's cloud registry using minimal prepaid mobile data.

It is important to point out that Seeds of Learning is providing teachers with computer training that has taught them the basics of office software usage, including Google Workspace tools (document, spreadsheets, presentation online software)



Component B: Community Document & Photo Hubs

- **Hardware:** One Ink Tank Printer will be located at one of the teachers' home.
- **Micro-Enterprise Model:** Teachers will offer affordable local document scanning, photocopying, and family photo printing to the community. Because there is zero local competition, this provides a vital service while generating a steady stream of income.

Financial Sustainability: The "Fondo Escolar"

Ink Tank technology prints at an incredibly low cost—roughly \$0.005 (half a cent) per black-and-white page. By charging a modest, community-friendly fee (e.g., the local equivalent of \$0.05 to \$0.10 USD per copy), the operation generates an **80%+ profit margin**.

All surplus revenue will be placed into a transparently managed **Fondo Escolar (School Fund)** managed by the 5 teachers. This fund will fully cover:

1. Ongoing paper supplies and ink refills.
2. Data packages for report submissions.
3. Bulk classroom materials (whiteboard markers, cardstock, pens) so teachers never spend their own salaries on teaching aids again.

Expected Impact

- **Financial Relief:** Instantly eliminates the \$20/month expenses on 5 vulnerable teachers, effectively giving them a 10% income boost.
- **Time Savings:** Saves dozens of hours previously spent traveling 40 miles round-trip on a single-schedule bus.
- **Community Development:** Provides a remote, underserved community with its very first local digital access point, reducing travel costs for hundreds of local families.
- **Improved Teaching:** This will allow teachers to access a world of teaching resources and ideas available in the internet and social networks (Pinterest, YouTube, Khan Academy, etc.)

Budget

Category	Item Description	Qty	Unit Cost	Total (USD)
Hardware	10" Android Tablet Workstation Kit (Tablet, Stand, Keyboard, Mouse)	5	\$140.00	\$700.00
Hardware	EcoTank Ink Tank Printer (Distributed to 2 central teacher homes)	1	\$200.00	\$200.00
Supply Starter	High-quality glossy photo paper (for family photo printing service)	2	\$15.00	\$30.00
Connectivity	Prepaid Mobile Data SIM Cards (Initial 3-month buffer for syncing)	5	\$15.00	\$75.00
	Project management & reporting		\$200.00	\$200.00
Total Request	Funding requested from The Great Uplift Project			\$1,205.00