MI 488 & IAH 205
Spring semester 2024
Design Project: Identifying a Design Problem/Conducting Background Research
 Assignment #1 (25 points)
<mark>**Due March 8, 2024**</mark>

The purpose of your design project is to identify a problem in <u>Kenya</u> (a "developing country"), and to design a possible technical solution to this problem. For this assignment you will conduct background research and use your findings to identify the problem that you will address. **Make sure you select a problem that will: sustain your interest for the rest of the semester and that might be able to be solved using ICTs.**

In this assignment you will read and synthesize (at 4-5) research papers/reports that answer these questions. In fact, you might want to use these questions to structure your assignment.

- What is the problem you are addressing? *Clearly and concisely explain your problem. Generally, the more focused you can be, the better.*
- Whom is this problem affecting? *Explain who the problem most affects (e.g., women, smallholder farmers, or informal settlement residents).*
- Where is this problem? *Explain where the problem exists (e.g., region within Kenya, rural or urban area).*
- How important is the problem? *Consider providing statistics and/or compelling examples to illustrate why your problem is important.*
- What—if any—prior technologies have been developed to address this problem? Were these efforts successful or unsuccessful? *Demonstrate that you have read articles (Or watched videos) about prior efforts to address your problem. Detail why these efforts did or did not work.*

You must provide justification for your answers to these questions. This will require that you conduct background research. **You must include at least four to five references in your assignment (you may include relevant articles read in this course).** Please correctly reference these sources/articles, e.g., it is wrong to just add a weblink to an article. Try to find a variety of sources. Information should come from reliable sources as much as possible. **Wikipedia or website links *should not* be used as a primary source of information.**

Many students start with a Google Scholar search, but you can also access relevant databases using MSU Libraries' website (https://lib.msu.edu/). In particular, you might consider accessing articles on the "ACM Digital Library", especially those from conferences proceedings:

- ICTD: International Conference on Information and Communication technologies and Development
- AfriCHI : THE African Conference for Human Computer Interaction
- Talk to Dr. Wyche and/or Dr. Choti if you are having trouble finding references.

Upload your assignment to D2L before class on 4/8. *Late assignments will not be accepted.*
- A report that carefully and thoughtfully answers the aforementioned questions. Answers to these questions will likely be at least a paragraph long. **Your final report should be ~ 1,500 words (note this word count does not include references).**
- A Works Cited page that includes at least four to five references to the prior research.

How will it be graded?

- **25-18 Points** –The assignment is complete and thoughtful. The references are properly formatted. They include a variety of sources (online reports, conference proceedings, journal articles, etc.). The write-up demonstrates an understanding of the articles, and clearly explains why they support and are relevant to your problem. The report is well-written and demonstrates a high level of independent work without reliance on generative AI tools like ChatGPT.
- **17-10 Points** – The assignment is complete but is not as high quality as it could be. The student incorrectly formatted references and does not appear to have read the articles. The write-up has typos and awkward sentences.
- **0-9 Points** – The assignment is incomplete or done incorrectly. The assignment lacks thought and is poorly presented.