50 Side Hustles You Can Start Under KES 1,000

Online and offline ideas for Kenya, with what you need to start.

Honest note: nobody can promise how much you will earn. Results depend on your effort, skills, time and luck. Never pay anyone who "guarantees" income.

Start-up costs are estimates — prices vary by town. Start small, test demand with friends and neighbours, and reinvest your first profits.

Online

#	Idea	What you need to start
1	Social media manager for shops	Phone + data
2	Canva poster design	Phone
3	CV and cover letter writing	Phone/laptop
4	Freelance writing	Laptop or phone
5	Transcription	Laptop + earphones
6	Virtual assistant	Phone/laptop
7	Affiliate marketing	Phone
8	Sell your own eBook	Phone + Canva
9	YouTube tutorials	Phone
10	TikTok brand promotions	Phone
11	Online tutoring (KCSE subjects)	Phone + data
12	Kiswahili lessons online	Phone + data
13	Data entry	Laptop
14	Product photography for sellers	Phone
15	Video editing (CapCut)	Phone

Phone & tech

#	Idea	What you need to start
1	Phone screen protector fitting	KES 500-1,000 stock
2	App and phone set-up help for parents	Skills only
3	Printing / photocopy agent (partner with a cyber)	Skills only
4	KRA iTax and eCitizen help (honest service)	Phone/laptop
5	WhatsApp Business set-up for shops	Phone

Food

#	Idea	What you need to start
1	Smokie / eggs pasua stand	Under KES 1,000 start
2	Homemade samosas or mandazi to offices	Ingredients
3	Fresh juice in bottles	Fruits + bottles
4	Popcorn for schools and events	Machine hire or pan
5	Packed lunch delivery	Ingredients + containers
6	Selling sukuma and vegetables in your estate	Small stock

Services

#	Idea	What you need to start
1	Laundry and ironing	Soap + iron
2	House cleaning	Basic supplies
3	Car wash at home	Bucket + soap
4	Shoe shining and repair	Polish + brushes
5	Hair braiding and nails	Skills + small kit
6	Errands and grocery runs	Phone
7	Pet walking / care	Time
8	Moving help	Strength + time
9	Event decoration helper	Skills
10	Babysitting (trusted families)	Time + trust
11	Tutoring primary kids in your estate	Skills

Buy & sell

#	Idea	What you need to start
1	Second-hand clothes (mitumba) online	Small stock
2	Phone accessories	Small stock
3	Thrift books for students	Small stock
4	Cosmetics re-selling	Small stock
5	Jewellery and beadwork	Beads
6	Water and drinks at events	Cooler + stock
7	Seedlings resale	Seeds + bags
8	Kienyeji eggs	Small stock
9	Airtime and tokens agent (where allowed)	Small float

#	Idea	What you need to start
10	Reusable shopping bags	Small stock
11	Stationery for schools	Small stock
12	Phone covers	Small stock
13	Scarves and caps	Small stock

How to choose

1. Pick ideas that use skills or items you already have.
2. Check if people around you need it: ask 10 potential customers.
3. Start this week with the smallest version; improve as you go.
4. Keep a notebook: money in, money out, profit.