

Annual Progress Report: Oct 2009-Sept 2010



KENYA: Computer Learning Centre Project
A partnership between
World Vision Australia and Computershare

Project overview

The project responds to a need for access to online health, development and other relevant information by the rural communities of Kenya.

Its goal is to:

- create informed, empowered and healthy communities by enhancing universal and equitable access to quality health and development information in three rural areas of Kenya.

Progress to date

All three computer learning centres are fully equipped and operational, and have management committees in place. They are accepted by the respective communities, and have a good reputation.

Following are key activities and highlights from this reporting period.

Open days:

Open days were held at each centre. This was a good opportunity for the centres to showcase and promote their work to the larger community.

The events were well attended, attracting school children, farmers, government representatives, teachers and members of local religious groups.

During the open days, the children of the project were able to demonstrate their newly acquired skills. The children were proud to show the photos and videos they had taken; and were enthusiastic to demonstrate how they could do their homework more effectively by using applications and programs available at the centre.

The farmers who have participated in the project showed photos and videos of agricultural tools and cross-bred cattle, and shared information about them with their peers.

The open days were also an opportunity to share information about and raise awareness on important issues such as health, rights of girls, education, and the dangers of Female Genital Mutilation and early marriage practices.

Celebrations marked the open days, with small tokens of appreciation given to the best students (children and adults); and a friendly football match being organised between two of the communities—another indication of the social fabric being strengthened by the centres.

Multiple functions of the centres:

Educational



In all the project areas, information provided through the centres has been repackaged and used for educational and awareness raising activities by the project beneficiaries.

For example, children from the Samburu centre developed a play on the benefits of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), which they performed to other children and their parents. They encouraged the children to join the centre, and promoted the importance of education to the parents.

The 'Comedy Warriors', a youth group from Samburu used health information they gathered from the centre in poems and skits, part of health education events they conducted in their community.

The centres have received book donations from Book Aid International, which led to an increase in the number of book clubs, and members interested in reading.



The centres also store audio information on various topics, such as HIV/AIDS, family planning, antenatal care, environmental issues, nutrition, common accidents, eye diseases, diabetes and adolescent health. These resources have prompted the formation of radio listening clubs, which demonstrate and foster health behaviour change.

Source of news and information

The centres are sought out as hubs for both local and international news, and the library resources are being used by researchers and teachers.

The community communicators continue to capture and store information on issues affecting and relevant to their communities, such as information on floods, droughts, disease outbreaks and other local news.

The participants have shown a strong desire to participate in the development of local documentaries and to contribute with articles for the centres' newsletter.

Income generation

The Tinada youth group in Lower Nyakach has been able to earn an extra income from the design, photography and video editing skills they learnt at the centre.

Women groups from Kisapuk have taken advantage of the centre's growing number of visitors to display and sell their handcraft, and earn an extra income from it.

Exchange visits

Twenty-nine members participated in exchange visits to the different centres.

They assessed the different ICTs and learning materials, and how these were being utilized.

They shared experiences, successes and challenges. They also inspired each other and made friends.

As part of the trips, the participants also visited two *AfriAfya* resource centers, where they were able to learn more about how to ensure centre will be sustainable in the long run.

Apart from sharing stories and learning from each other's experiences, the participants were also able to learn more about the surrounding communities and their shared needs.

Impact

“Having the centre has really made our work so easy; we don't have to force parents in the Maasai land to send their children to school anymore. They see for themselves the benefits of school and of using the centre.” Mr. Ndirangu, Kajiado Area Education Officer

Some outcomes of the project include:

- Positive changes in the status of women within the Maasai community, and increased female participation in the project.
- Improved self esteem amongst the children who participate in the project.
- An increase in the number of children enrolling for ICT training in the centre, and an increase in school enrollment as neighboring communities learn about the importance of education through the centres' activities.
- The centres have a good reputation and enhance community cohesion; several community groups and organisations are associated or showed interest in being associated with the centres.
- Good collaboration with local government and educational institutions that support the project.
- Income generation opportunities enabling beneficiaries to improve their livelihood.

Detailed progress information towards projected outcomes

Outcome 1: *The three targeted communities' (orphans, vulnerable children, youth and other community members) knowledge management and communication capacity in health and development information generation and sharing are strengthened.*

The project has:

- published quarterly newsletters
- trained 373 people in ICT; exceeding the target of 90 people
- set up nine health and book clubs
- set up nine radio listening clubs
- produced five documentaries and 62 stories (by the community members)

Outcome 2: *Access to and use of relevant quality information by children, youth and general community are improved.*

The project has:

- responded to beneficiaries' queries and requests for information on topics including: HIV/AIDS, palliative care, green house technology, environmental protection and

Attendance at the centres over the reporting period:

2543 children (1355 male and 1188 female)

1036 youth (687 male and 349 female)

781 adults (477 male and 304 female)

management, malaria, community-based organisation management, rice farming

- disseminated 28 health and development articles (hard copies) and books donated by Book AID International
- organised five exchange visits

- provided training in centre management skills to 61 people, while 98 received training in marketing skills
- provided refresher training to staff of the centres to help stimulate the identification of information needs in the community
- provided training to 39 people in basic business planning and financial management
- organised three open days, which were attended by 2505 people

Developing an information-seeking culture has required time as community members did not have the concept of requesting information but there has been a positive change in this area. Project staff have noted an increase in information requests as the communities become more aware of the opportunities made available to them.

Training in financial and centre management has been conducted to enhance long-term sustainability of the project.

Outcome 3: *Access to and proper use of appropriate ICTs by children, youth and community members for improved health and development communication services are enhanced.*

The project has:

- installed 13 ICT programmes
- community trainers have trained 1461 children in basic ICT skills;
- provided internet connections to each centre
- trained 48 government representatives
- 144 people have used the internet on a regular basis

Lessons learnt

As the project is embarking in its final year, we want to ensure that lessons learnt are documented and used in future project planning.

Some of the lessons learnt to date are

- Regular joint monitoring is important to ensure communities views are taken into consideration and inform developments of the project

- Building the centres' staffs capacity and technical knowledge is crucial for a smooth
- The need for strong partnership with government ministries and institutions, and other local partners are key in ensuring accountability, adequate representation and sustainability transition to the community taking full ownership of the project; this is a key focus for the final year of the project

Thank you Computershare

Thanks to your support, more children and community members in rural Kenya are able to access online health, development and other relevant information, and improve their livelihoods.

Appendix: Financial acquittal

Contact Information

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FINANCIAL ACQUITTAL

Project Name:
Project Number:
Contract Number:
Period Covered:

Community Learning Centre Project
1KEN086



1 October 2009 - 30 September 2010

July 2006 - March 2010	Budget-to-Date AUD	Actual-to-Date AUD	Variance AUD	Variance %
In Country				
Non Personnel Inputs				
Activity Supplies <i>(eg: Publishing, internet connectivity)</i>	51,522	61,479 -	9,957	0%
Capital Expenditure	-	-	-	0%
Total Non Personnel Inputs	51,522	61,479 -	9,957	0%
Activity Personnel				
Personnel Salaries & Benefits	45,304	40,945	4,359	0%
Staff Training	2,723	1,045	1,678	0%
Consultancy	-	-	-	0%
Travel	-	-	-	0%
Total Activity Personnel	48,027	41,990	6,037	0%
In Country Activity Support Costs				
Other Activity Costs	-	-	-	0%
Field-Office Costs	13,674	15,304 -	1,630	0%
Total In Country Activity Support Costs	13,674	15,304 -	1,630	0%
Total In Country Project Expenditure	113,223	118,773 -	5,550	0%
Total Expenditure (AUD)	113,223	118,773 -	5,550	0%

30% Overhead 33,967

Total payment received 147,190