

THE ONE LAPTOP PER CHILD PROJECT

Introduction

The One Laptop per Child (OLPC) Project is a key project that aims at the enhancement of education through the Introduction of technology in primary schools. It also allows primary school students early access to computer skills and computer science understanding while expanding their knowledge on specific subjects like Science, Mathematics, languages and Social Sciences through online research or content hosted on servers.

This is a fundamental step toward the building of a knowledge based economy. In this regards, Rwanda launched the One Laptop Per Child program (OLPC) in June 2008 and the current proposed target is to provide all students from P4 to P6 access to laptops.

The One Laptop per Child covers several NICI plan (National ICT Strategy) objectives.

[More](#)



Figure. 1. Students using the XOs in class

Current status of the OLPC Rwanda Project

Since the project was officially launched in 2008, a lot has been done, in school infrastructure development, laptops deployment and laptop integration in classrooms. At the beginning two pilot projects were prioritized:

1. Government Pilot Projects: The pilot project distributed 8150 laptops in 10 public schools while 1800 laptops were bought by parents from 12 private schools.

List of public schools which received XO Laptop during pilot project

SN	PROVINCE	DISTRICT	SCHOOL NAME
1	EAST	RWAMAGANA	RWAMAGANA B
2	MVK	GASABO	GS KAGUGU
3			GS KICUKIRO
			EPAK
		KICUKIRO	NONKO
4	NORTH	GICUMBI	APAKE INYANGE
5	SOUTH	RUSIZI	GS BWEYEYE A
6			BWEYEYE B
7			RASANO
8			REACH INTERNATIONAL

List of private schools which bought XO Laptop during pilot project

SN	PROVINCE	DISTRICT	SCHOOL NAME
1	MVK	GASABO	GREEN HILLS ACADEMY
2		GASABO	KIGALI PARENT SCHOOLS
3		GASABO	LA COLOMBIERE
4		GASABO	APAPEC IREBERO
5		GASABO	EXCELLA
6		GASABO	HORIZON
7		GASABO	SOS KACYIRU
8		KICUKIRO	SAINT JOSEPH
9		NYARUGENGE	ESCAF
10		NYARUGENGE	SAINT MARIE AUXILIATRICE
11	WEST	RUBAVU	ULK GISENYI
12	SOUTH	RUSIZI	EDUCATEUR

For all these laptops to be useful to schools, a continuous assistance to teachers and students is needed, 250 teachers were trained on the Basic Use of Laptops and the Use of Laptops in Teaching. Teachers have also been trained on how to solve different technical problems both hardware and software related issues.

Other 45 professional technicians from different institutions like the Regional ICT Training and Research Center (RITC), Work Force Development Force (WDA), have been trained on how to fix and also on the general maintenance of laptops.

2. Pilot Project

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) in partnership with the Microsoft Corporation developed another pilot project at Inyange (APAKE) Primary School in Gicumbi District. This pilot project involved the training of teachers and local school technician, in total, 17 teachers were trained, Electrical installations in classrooms were done, Internet access set up and Content servers installed.



Figure. 2. Teacher Training activities

XO Laptops Deployment

After pilot projects, the Government of Rwanda procured 65,000 laptops, at least five schools in each district received laptops for their Primary 4 – Primary 6 students by the end of 2010. At the moment, over 60,000 laptops have been deployed to schools at the Provinces and Districts listed below;

Provinces and Districts with XO Laptops

SN	Province	District
1.	EAST	BUGESERA
2.		RWAMAGANA
3.		KIREHE
4.		KAYONZA
5.		BUGESERA
6.		KAYONZA
7.		NGOMA
8.		NYAGATARE
9.		GATSIBO
10.	NORTH	GICUMBI
11.		MUSANZE
12.		GAKENKE
13.		BURERA
14.	RULINDO	
15.	SOUTH	KAMONYI
16.		GISAGARA
17.		NYARUGURU
18.		HUYE
19.		MUHANGA
20.		RUHANGO
21.		NYANZA
22.	NYAMAGABE	
23.	VK	GASABO
24.		KICUKIRO
25.		NYARUGENGE
26.	WEST	NGORORERO
27.		RUSIZI
28.		NYAMASHEKE
29.		RUBAVU
30.		KARONGI
31.		NYABIHU
32.		RUTSIRO

Electricity: The process of wiring 150 schools, 5 schools per District identified by the survey done on 460 schools around the country is almost complete.

Internet Access: The OLPC Project proposes to adopt a community access approach where internet access routers will be installed, and will reach a radius of 1km - 5km around the school. This will enable schools to share the internet cost with various public and private entities that can then help fund the cost of operations, repair and maintenance of the access points.

Capacity Building: Capacity Building of head of schools, teachers and local technicians has been the crucial priority for the OLPC Rwanda project.

The OLPC Rwanda project has conducted training for 981 teachers from the 150 schools of the initial deployment phase.