

Zambia's Youth Centre Leveraging Programme

Increasing employment chances for Zambian youth

Two of IICD's project partners in Zambia: Chawama Youth Project and Ndola Resource Centre will use their experience and lessons learned to build the Information and communication capacity of one training college and sixteen Youth Resource Centres all over the country. This is done at the request of the Ministry of Sports, Youth and Child Development and the National Youth Development Council as part of the implementation of the National Youth Policy (2006). Over 1000 students a year will receive computer training, thus increasing their employment chances.

Training staff members and youth

In the youth resource centres involved in this programme, youth is taught how to use computers and computer programs in order to increase their chances of employment.

Approximately 170 staff members of the centres are trained in the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) they then pass that knowledge on to the students reaching over 1000 students per year.

Promoting the use of ICT for Youth and increase employment opportunities

IICD assists the Ministry of Sport, Youth and Child Development (MSYCD) in reaching the overall objective of the National Youth Policy composed in 2006. The Chawama Youth Project and the Ndola Resource Centre, both partners of IICD, provided input during the policy making process. The goal of the policy is to promote the use of ICT for Youth development.

The specific objectives are to promote sustainable ICT education targeted at youth to increase employment opportunities. Second objective of the policy plan is to promote youth accessibility to ICT equipment and material.

Third objective is to promote the operation of Internet connectivity as a potential area for entrepreneurship development among youth for information and communication. These objectives will be achieved through the sixteen Youth Resource Centres, the King George VI National College and National Youth Development Council.



At the resource centres Zambian youth learn basic computer skills such as how to compose documents

Objectives

The youth programme's main objectives are:

- *To compliment the Youth Resource Centres* - Complement the Youth Resource Centres (YRC) with activities that will enhance their development in line with the programme.
- *To deploy learned lessons* - Deploying the experiences and lessons learned of IICD supported projects in terms of content development and utilisation and mobilisation of user groups at community level.

The role of local consultants

Our local consultants (Chawama Youth Project and Ndola Resource Centre)

- Provide strategic advice to department heads and centre managers and other staff members in terms of the technical and organizational issues



- Provide technical ICT training for department heads and centre managers and other staff members
- Compile and make available relevant training resources for department heads and centre managers and other staff members on an ongoing basis
- Provide advice on Internet connectivity
- Develop and conduct train-the-trainer programmes for department heads and centre managers and other staff members.

This enables staff members to design and deliver tailor-made training programmes for specific audiences such as programme design and development of material, selection and utilisation of effective training methods. Furthermore staff is enabled to manage and conduct effective ICT training programmes such as basic skills, information sourcing and content development.

Experiences so far

The participants were all eager to learn new computer skills and are showing a lot of interest in the entire programme. In general it can be stated that a lot of the participants were sitting in front of a computer for the first time and therefore did not know how computers work and how ICT can be deployed. At first some of the female participants were not so enthusiastic as they were of the view that ICT and in particular computer is a very difficult subject and therefore meant only for highly educated people. Yet, after a day's work and interaction the participants understood how useful and applicable computers and accessories such as a beamer and a printer

Partners: Chawama Youth Project, Ndola Resource Centre, Ministry of Sports, Youth and Child Development, National Youth Development Council

Number of people trained: 170 staff members, 1000 students per year

Total budget (2009): 250,000 dollar

can be in the Youth Resource Centres and in their personal lives.

After the initial trainings some centres even opted for establishing ICT clubs so that the development and deployment of ICT in their centres and towards their target groups can be fostered.

Option to expand

At the moment the total budget of the youth programme is 250,000 dollar until the end of 2009. IICD funds approximately 70,000 dollar, mainly used for training and advice to the local partners in Chawama and Ndola. With this budget the amount of students trained on a yearly basis is around 1000. With an additional amount of 500,000 dollar however new computers can be bought for all locations providing more training space for students. Additional funds could go to turning rooms into computer labs and to capacity building by training even more teachers. This training is needed to ensure that even more young people can be reached.

With the right tools, people in developing countries can considerably improve their livelihoods and quality of life. Better access to information and communication technology (ICT) is particularly vital in enabling them to achieve their goals. This is why the International Institute for Communication and Development (IICD) creates practical and sustainable solutions that connect people and enable them to benefit from ICT. As an independent not-for-profit foundation, we put knowledge, innovation and finance to work with partners from the public, private and not-for profit sectors. Together, we can make a world of difference.

IICD is active in Africa, Latin-America and the Caribbean, where we create and enhance development opportunities in education, good governance, livelihoods, health and the environment. Our approach includes linking local, national and international organisations as well as formulating and implementing ICT-supported development policies and projects.

IICD was established by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1996. Our core funders include the Dutch Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGIS), the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). For more information, please visit www.iicd.org.

