

Status 12Apr2021

School Connectivity

Vodacom Tanzania Foundation

Catherine R. Kimambo



Experience and Uptake

- Core of the discussion in MCIT (Ministry of Communication and Information Technology) is how to digitalize Tanzania starting with Education and health center.
- Align with future plans of both Ministry and Schools; we discovered this during our visit to schools and when holding meetings at the Districts offices.
- Schools are putting plans in place for the adaptation of the project in their curriculums.
- 10 GB has proved to be essential in both schools administrative work, additional teaching resources to teachers and students (when downloading contents).
- Tablets donated will be under the supervision of teachers and given to students when there is computer sessions. Students find it easier using tablets as compared to desktops when learning.



Progress made by the project

- Up to date we have successfully connected 10 schools in 10 Regions,
- Held meetings with Regional Administrative Secretaries, met with District Education Coordinators and Education officers.
- Worked on installations with Government IT from District council/ Municipal. Who will be the 2nd level of support when challenges arise that teachers cant solve.
- Signed 10 MOU with head teachers, Education Officers in the District councils and the Implementing organization all these MOU are stored at the respective district where schools will report on the progress of the project.
- Lastly conducted trainings to both teachers and students in the schools connected on Basic troubleshooting and how to access learning platforms





THEORIES



► Assumptions

1. Beneficiary cant afford to pay for the services or maintenance of the equipment.
2. Schools are not ready for digital education/ connectivity
3. Lack of government involvement/ support

► Reality

1. There are education funds assigned to school every year by the ministry which mostly get directed to building classes. From this fund Beneficiaries paid for other costs that the project didn't cover.
2. During meetings with schools head teachers it became clear that they were already putting plans in place to accommodate digital education way before we introduced school connectivity.
3. We received enormous support from the local and regional government and they are the ones who escorted us to the respective schools.

BEST PRACTICES

DIGITAL FRIENDS

we introduced an aspect of having people on the ground work with us and teachers during the M&E phase we call these individuals (Digital friends).

Placing learning contents **OFFLINE**


RESTRICTING sites that can be visited by students and Teachers

Direct involvement of local government through **TAMISEMI**






Recommendations

- ▶ Design bundles that are affordable to institutions such as schools, hospitals and Communities (Eg. University offer)
 - ▶ Special SIM CARDS for school connectivity
 - ▶ Change of measurement approaches (From Network cellular info lite to relying both on the app and operators data)
- 



Challenges

- ▶ Network fluctuation in completely isolated areas Eg Simanjiro (Emboreet secondary school – still vulnerably connected)
 - ▶ Lack of digital skills to non-IT teachers
- 



Future plans

