



AFRICA

**PUBLIC LIBRARIES ADVANCING
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

eifl PUBLIC LIBRARY
INNOVATION
PROGRAMME

EIFL's Public Library Innovation Programme advances community development by enabling public libraries to implement innovative ideas that use technology to improve people's lives and livelihoods.

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COVER PHOTO: Farmers use computers at Bwera Information Centre in Western Uganda. The centre is one of five libraries taking part in Maendeleo Foundation's Connect Uganda Pilot Project. Photo by Elaisha Stokes.

MAENDELEO FOUNDATION (UGANDA)

Libraries' local language database connects farmers in four regions

LAUNCHED IN APRIL 2012

The 'Connect Uganda' Pilot Project works through five rural libraries and helps farming families to improve their incomes. The project is a partnership between Maendeleo Foundation and the Uganda Community Libraries Association (UgCLA). In less than a year, the project trained 700 farmers and others in the community to use computers and to access agricultural information online.

Working with experts from Makerere University, librarians translated agricultural information into local languages. The project helped farmers petition the government to supply them with disease-resistant coffee plants; to identify new species of trees, and encouraged youth to take up farming as a career.



IMPROVED FARMING: Over 90% of farmers who attended Maendeleo Foundation's ICT training said that the information they found through the library's internet service helped improve their farming.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF UGANDA (UGANDA)

Library uses internet and mobile phones to support women farmers

LAUNCHED IN APRIL 2012

National Library of Uganda (NLU) provided the first ever computer training for women farmers in Kyangatto Village in Uganda's Central Region. The service has led to formation of a women's group with 60 members, who meet regularly after working in the fields and attend computer classes at a local school, NLU's partner. The women are using the internet to look for information, e-mail and Facebook for communication, and Excel to keep their farm records.

The service includes mobile phone text messages (SMS) to alert the women about market prices, the weather, plant diseases and how to access credit. "I was always disappointed because I could not find markets to sell my products, and they piled up. But now, through the SMS alerts I know where to sell my products at the best prices, and on time!" said Ms Esther Sserwanga, development leader in the Kyangatto Women's Group.



NEW LEARNERS: National Library of Uganda provided the first ever computer training for women farmers in Kyangatto Village in Uganda's Central Region.

IMPROVING FARMERS' LIVES

RWENZORI INFORMATION NETWORK (UGANDA)

Library smart phone service combats plant pests and diseases

LAUNCHED IN APRIL 2012

In less than a year (2012/13) this service, which uses smart phones and other technology, helped more than 850 farmers in Kasese District (Western Region) to find solutions to plant diseases. Working through Busongora Rural Information Centre (BRIC), a community library, Rwenzori Information Network equipped 20 volunteer plant doctors (agricultural extension workers who provide practical advice to farmers) with smart phones.

They use the smart phones to take photographs of diseased plants, and send them to experts who identify problems and offer solutions via email or mobile phone text messages (SMS). The service also trained over 112 farmers and other community members to use computers, and set up a web-portal for farmers with links to agricultural information and support agencies.



HEALTHY PLANTS: The library's smart phone service enables farmers to send SMS messages to plant experts to ask for advice about combating plant pests and diseases.

“AS A RESULT OF THE LIBRARY’S SERVICE, I HAVE SEEN A GREAT REDUCTION OF PESTS AND DISEASES IN MY ORANGE ORCHARD.”

FRANCIS BAITA, FARMERS’ GROUP LEADER, RWENZORI REGION

FRIENDS OF AFRICAN VILLAGE LIBRARIES (BURKINA FASO)

Library smart phones connect teenagers to health information

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2014

Four village libraries in Tuy Province are teaching teenage girls to use smart phones to access health information online. Adolescent and sexual health issues are part of the school curriculum, but in some more traditional rural areas teachers are uncomfortable talking about these subjects. "Village libraries are non-threatening environments where girls can feel free to have discussions

and ask questions," said Krystle Austin, programme manager. At each library, librarians and midwives are organizing girls' health clubs. In the clubs, girls are learning to use smart phones to research the internet; to create short e-books about health issues, and to set up a health blog and share information with their peers.



HEALTH CLUBS: Members of the Girls' Health Club at Dimikuy Village Library practise using smart phones to access the information and search for health information.

GHANA LIBRARY AUTHORITY / NORTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY

Mobile phone information service to help reduce maternal mortality

LAUNCHED IN APRIL 2012

"The [text] messages helped me to look out for various signs and symptoms. They prepared me psychologically and I am happy to have delivered safely," said Gabriella Wusah, a new mother. Gabriella was one of 94 pregnant women who received text messages from the library, sent to her mobile phone. The Technology for Maternal Health Service, a partnership between the library, the local development agency, Savana Signatures, and health workers, sends weekly text messages to pregnant women, hosts public health events and launched a maternal health

education campaign on local radio stations to reach non-literate women. For health workers, the library set up a maternal health corner with free access to five computers pre-loaded with maternal health information. They trained 15 health workers to use the computers, to conduct online research and to access the pre-loaded material. In 2013, Savana Signatures received funding (over US\$200,000) to expand this successful service to include four more districts and translate SMS into local languages.



MATERNAL HEALTH: In the library, women watch videos about what to expect during childbirth on computers pre-loaded with maternal health information.

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

KENYA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE (KENYA)

Library e-health service a vital link in chain of health information

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2010

The service created two e-health corners with free internet access and special literature in branch libraries in Kisumu and Eldoret, towns facing special health issues including high levels of HIV/AIDS and malaria. In just one year (2010/11), librarians trained over 1,600 health workers, students and members of the public to use ICT to access online health resources.

The two branch libraries are now recognized as vital links in the chain of health information provision. Working with the Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation, the two libraries host public lectures on health issues. KNLS is also starting e-health information points in rural clinics to improve health workers' access to information.



E-HEALTH CORNERS: Kenya National Library Service's e-health corners support local health service provision.

TANZANIA LIBRARY SERVICES BOARD (TANZANIA)

Library uses ICT to break the silence about adolescent sexual health

LAUNCHED IN JULY 2012

Cultural barriers prevent many parents from speaking openly to their children about sex and sexuality. Without the right information, teenagers experience confusion as they journey through adolescence, and are at risk of unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortions and contracting sexually transmitted

diseases. Working through the National Central Library in Dar es Salaam, and in partnership with the non-governmental organization, Femina HIP, Tanzania Library Services Board (TLSB) breaks the silence through access to internet resources, ICT skills training, and offering lectures by experts in adolescent sexual health. In less

than a year (2012/13), the service reached 104 teenagers in three schools. "We value this training. Sexual and Reproductive Health Training is necessary for the children, as many children are sexually active – but do not have awareness," said Aneth Laswai, a teacher.

BUSOLWE PUBLIC LIBRARY (UGANDA)

Librarians, linguists, health workers team up to improve community health

LAUNCHED IN APRIL 2012

The library's Humanye Obulamu Project (HOP) uses the internet to improve flows of health information to villagers living in Butaleja District in Eastern Uganda. In less than a year, the library trained over 80 community members to use computers to look for health information online. Working with the Lunyole Language Association and local doctors, librarians translated information about how to identify and prevent common local illnesses into local languages, and produced leaflets which health

workers and schoolchildren distribute in remote villages. Guided by health workers, the children also perform short plays to promote healthy lifestyles. As a result of the project, the library developed a partnership with the local non-governmental organization, A Little Bit of Hope, which has built pit latrines for 30 households in two villages, and is helping disseminate the library's messages about sanitation, nutrition and hygiene.



INFORMATION FLOWS: The library's health service helps improve communication between health workers and people living in remote rural villages.

HOIMA PUBLIC LIBRARY (UGANDA)

Health corners improve public access to health information

LAUNCHED IN MARCH 2010

The number of library users seeking health information more than doubled after Hoima Public Library introduced its health service, according to an impact assessment survey conducted among library users in 2012. The survey also found that 20% more mothers who use

the library now have mosquito nets in their homes, and sleep under them regularly. The service provides free access to the internet in its e-health corner, and, from 2010-2012, working with the Red Cross and local hospitals, trained over 400 health workers, 2,000 students and

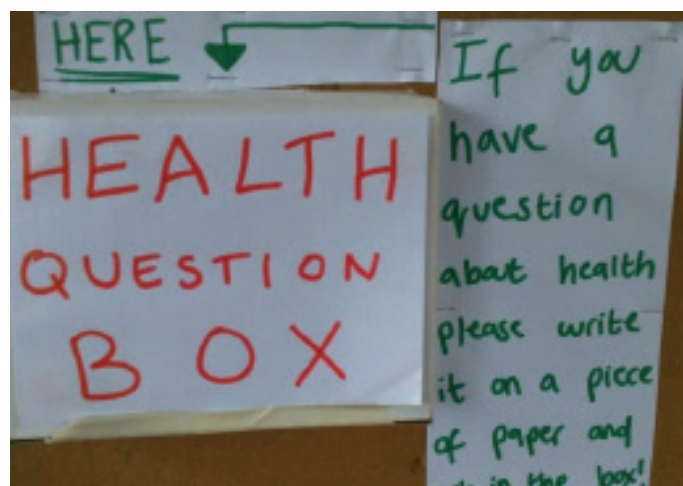
700 members of the general public to use the internet to access reliable health information. In 2012 the service won an EIFL Public Library Innovation Award for library services that contribute to community health.

UGANDA COMMUNITY LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION (UGANDA)

Technology camps for children promote healthy lifestyles

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2014

Five rural community libraries are organizing health and technology camps to increase children's knowledge about sensitive sexual health issues and healthy nutrition. "In a country where HIV/AIDS and malnutrition still claim many lives, there is a desperate need for information – especially among young adolescents," said Ms Brenda Musasizi, project coordinator. The libraries, all members of the Uganda Community Libraries Association (UgCLA), are working closely with secondary schools and community organizations. Youth who attend the camps are encouraged to share knowledge with their siblings, parents and peers. After the camps, they are able to research the internet to update their knowledge and find new information.



SENSITIVE QUESTIONS: Children feel free to ask questions about sensitive health issues at their local libraries' health camps.

“YOUNG ADOLESCENTS DESPERATELY NEED HEALTH INFORMATION. OUR LIBRARY HEALTH AND TECHNOLOGY CAMPS ADDRESS THIS NEED.”

BRENDA MUSASIZI, COORDINATOR, UGANDA COMMUNITY LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

MASIPHUMELELE PUBLIC LIBRARY (SOUTH AFRICA)

ICT and careers training links unemployed youth to opportunities

LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER 2011

In just one year (2011/12), Masiphumelele Community Library helped 20 vulnerable young people find jobs and encouraged another 31 to enter further education. The library's ICT training and employment information service trained 1,540 beginner and 48 intermediate ICT students, all from Masiphumelele, an impoverished informal settlement near Cape Town. The service, is building young people's skills, confidence and employability: "The library has changed my life because I am learning and I will get a certificate instead of just sitting at home doing nothing," said Sikhumbuzo Tsobo, one of the library's ICT trainees.



CAREER PATHS: The library's ICT and careers training is helping place vulnerable youth on positive career paths.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF UGANDA, LIRA AND MASINDI PUBLIC LIBRARIES (UGANDA)

Mobile phone employment alert service helps young people find jobs

LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER 2011

In just six months, this partnership between three public libraries trained 560 vulnerable unemployed youth to use ICT, built a database of information about the skills, talents and career dreams of over 1,000 youth and sent out over 5,000

mobile phone text messages alerting young people to further education opportunities, scholarships and jobs. In addition to training and the SMS alert service, the libraries offer free access to ICT. Young people are flocking to the

libraries – especially in the more rural towns of Lira and Masindi – to sign up for the service, and librarians report that numbers of library users increased by 30% in 2012.

CONTRIBUTING TO COMMUNITY ECONOMIC WELLBEING

KAWEMPE YOUTH CENTRE (UGANDA)

Financial literacy and ICT training improve young people's chances in life

LAUNCHED IN MARCH 2011

A registered community library, Kawempe Youth Centre won an EIFL Public Library Innovation Award in 2012 for library services that contribute to economic wellbeing of the community. The library's service includes ICT, business and financial literacy training – all desperately needed skills in Kawempe, a densely populated division

of Kampala where an estimated one in five people is unemployed. In just over a year (2011/12), the library trained 90 young people. Over a quarter of the trainees reported having opened bank accounts; several started small businesses and others entered vocational training courses.



OWN BUSINESS: After attending training at Kawempe Youth Centre, Babirye Gorretti started her own computer school which she runs as a small business in Kawempe.

“AFTER THE LIBRARY TRAINING, I SECURED FUNDING TO BUY FOUR SECOND-HAND COMPUTERS. A MONTH LATER, MY FIRST CLIENTS HAD ENROLLED AND I WAS TRAINING THEM!”

BABIRYE GORRETTI, YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

GHANA LIBRARY AUTHORITY / NORTHERN REGIONAL LIBRARY

Library's training builds young leaders

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2010

The library's Internet Access and Training Programme links ICT and leadership training for vulnerable, unemployed youth. In just one year (2010/11), the library trained 190 youth (125 women and 65 men). Librarians report that because of their ICT training, some trainees returned to school; some signed up for driving lessons, and others are working in internet cafés or teaching

part time to raise money for further study. The library is now a recognized player in local development, hosting monthly public lectures and debates to deepen understanding about the value of ICT in addressing community needs in areas like health, the local economy, women's empowerment and education.



YOUNG LEADERS: ICT and leadership skills training in Northern Regional Library is helping build young people's technology, confidence and communication skills.

KITENGESA COMMUNITY LIBRARY (UGANDA)

Including the deaf among those who hear

LAUNCHED IN 2012

Kitengesa Community Library is playing a vital role in ending the isolation of deaf children, who for the first time are sharing space with regular library users, learning to use ICT, playing games, using Skype and taking extra English language classes. The library reaches out to Good Samaritan School for the Deaf, where over 100 boarding and day students have enrolled for primary education and vocational skills training. Until 2012, Good Samaritan students were isolated from the community. Few Ugandans

know sign language, and even within their own families, deaf children may be regarded as mentally retarded. Now, about 20 students from Good Samaritan visit the library every week. To help overcome prejudice, the library also works with family members, schools and local institutions like hospitals and the police service. In 2013, the service won an EIFL Public Library Innovation Award for library services contributing to social inclusion in the community.



NEW FRIENDS: Children from Good Samaritan School for the Deaf use the online communication tool Skype to communicate with new friends in Canada.

CONTRIBUTING TO EDUCATION

GHANA LIBRARY AUTHORITY / VOLTA REGIONAL LIBRARY

Mobile library's hands on computer classes for rural schools

LAUNCHED IN APRIL 2012

The library's mobile service takes low voltage laptop computers to five schools in under-developed parts of Ho Municipality in Volta Region so that children can get hands on computer experience. The van is equipped with solar power to charge the laptops and wi-fi internet. In two years, (2012/14), the library taught 350 students how to use computers, increasing their potential to pass their exams. The service attracted

additional funding and technology support from the local technology agency, Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communication (GIFEC), which donated five desktop computers, additional solar panels, a canopy for outdoor lessons, desks and chairs. It also attracted over US\$5,000 from individual donors through the online funding platform, GlobalGiving.



HANDS-ON: Children in rural schools that do not have computers or electricity get hands on experience through Volta Regional Library's mobile computer classes.

BUSIA COMMUNITY LIBRARY (KENYA)

Library tablet computers help children improve their marks at school

LAUNCHED IN APRIL 2012

The library's Watoto kwa Watoto project (Children for Children) created a colourful and attractive space for children in the library, and uses six tablet computers to help children to study and overcome challenges in passing exams. Guided by Minimally Invasive Education theory, in which children learn to use technology in a minimally supervised environment, librarians encourage the children to use tablet computers to access the educational content, to research the internet and to

play educational games. After just a few months (2012/13), the children's school test results in science, mathematics, social and religious studies, Kiswahili and English improved. "The learners are exposed to a variety of learning materials. They gain new knowledge every time they interact with learners from other schools. This programme is building them academically and socially," said Ms Mercy Musungu, head teacher at Bugengi Primary School.



LEARNING FUN: Children use tablet computers at Busia Community Library to access educational content linked to the school curriculum and to play educational games.

KENYA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE / KIBERA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library tablet computers support education in slum schools

LAUNCHED IN APRIL 2012

The library uses tablet computers pre-loaded with educational content linked to the school curriculum to help schoolchildren from under-resourced schools in Kibera, the biggest slum in eastern Africa, to improve their school results. Librarians teamed up with the educational agency, eLimu, which creates digital educational material in fun formats, including animations, film and puzzles. Working with eLimu, the library taught 120 children and 48 teachers to

use the tablets to access the material and research the internet. To assess the children's progress, librarians organized games and quizzes. More than half of the children interviewed in a library survey said the programme had helped improve their English, mathematics and science. Kenya National Library Service has received a grant from an international NGO to replicate the programme in three more branch libraries.



FUN FORMATS: Children from slum schools use tablet computers to access educational material in fun formats like video, puzzles and quizzes at Kibera Public Library.

KENYA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE / KISUMU PUBLIC LIBRARY

Library's video conferencing project connects rural schools

LAUNCHED IN OCTOBER 2011

Schools hundreds of kilometres apart in remote areas of western Kenya and across the border in Uganda are engaging in lively interschool debates, quizzes and spelling competitions through this public library's smart phone, laptop and video conferencing service. Few rural schools have internet connections, and so the library connects to the internet through the mobile phone network. The library

provides technology training for teachers and pupils. "This has opened up a new chapter in my teaching career! I have never seen such technology before!" said Ms Rosemary Mutakha, English teacher at Shikalakala primary school. In 2014 the service won an EIFL Public Library Innovation Award for creative use of ICT in public libraries.



VIDEO CONFERENCE: Kisumu High School pupils take part in a multi-school video conference organized by the library. When large groups of children take part, schools use projectors to magnify images and speakers to amplify sound.

CONTRIBUTING TO EDUCATION

‘DR ROBERT OUKO’ MEMORIAL COMMUNITY LIBRARY (KENYA)

Library’s e-readers programme improves rural children’s reading

LAUNCHED IN MARCH 2012

This library’s e-readers project responds to a desperate need at rural schools in Koru (southwestern Kenya). “Many local primary schools have over 500 pupils and virtually no textbooks,” said Richard Aoko Oketch, project manager. The library takes over 200 e-readers to schools to enable the children to learn school subjects and improve their reading skills. The e-readers are pre-loaded with textbooks in all school subjects and over 400 African and other international titles. Librarians teach teachers how to integrate the

e-readers into their classes, and train children to use them. Many of the e-readers have 3G (mobile broadband) capacity, and children can also use them to access the internet to find open educational resources. “The children’s academic performance has improved tremendously,” said Tom Onyona, head teacher at Menara Primary School. In 2014, the library won an EIFL Public Library Innovation Programme Award for Supporting education through the e-readers project.



READING ALOUD: Children at Menara Primary School practise reading aloud in class, using e-readers provided by ‘Dr Robert Ouko’ Memorial Community Library.

CODE-ETHIOPIA (ETHIOPIA)

Community libraries tackle pre-school and family literacy

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2014

Three rural community libraries are helping to tackle the desperate need for early literacy development in Ethiopia by creating e-books for pre-school children, and by promoting family literacy. “Ethiopia lacks mother-tongue reading materials for children, and parents do not have experience of reading with their children,” said Mr Tesfaye Dubale, Executive Director of

CODE-Ethiopia, which is leading the project. CODE-Ethiopia will publish 12 new e-books for pre-school children; of these, six will be written by local librarians and based on community life and customs. Librarians are also being trained to offer regular family literacy sessions in which parents and children read together.



FAMILY LITERACY: Three rural libraries are creating e-books for pre-school children and organizing family literacy classes where parents can read with their children.

KENYA NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE / BURUBURU PUBLIC

Mobile digital library brings the magic of stories to children

LAUNCHED IN AUGUST 2011

The library's 'mobile digital librarian' brings the magic of e-books to hospitals, young offenders' institutions, child care centres and schools, reaching hundreds of children who have limited educational opportunities and do not have access to books. The mobile service includes

a laptop, a modem to connect to the internet, an LCD projector and speakers. The librarian downloads stories from online libraries that provide free e-books and educational resources for children. Enlarged text is projected to a screen, and the librarian guides the children through

the stories. "It is as though each of the children had their own copy of the book!" said a care centre child minder. In 2014 the service won an EIFL Public Library Innovation Award for creative use of ICT in public libraries.

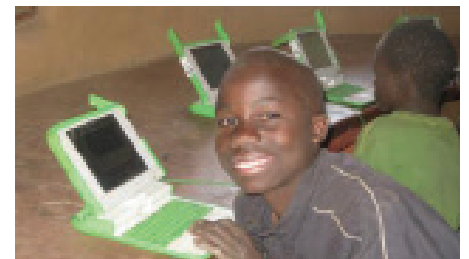
LUBUTO LIBRARY PROJECT (ZAMBIA)

Computer-based literacy education for vulnerable children

LAUNCHED IN MAY 2010

Vulnerable children are learning literacy skills in mother-tongue through Lubuto Library Project's computer-based reading lessons in the major Zambian languages. The Lubuto Literacy lessons were created using the One Laptop per Child application Etoys, but they run on any computer platform. USAID awarded

the Lubuto Library Project an All Children Reading grant to further evaluate, refine and disseminate the lessons, and Zambia's education ministry, through the Zambia Library Service, is partnering with Lubuto Library Project to extend library services throughout the country.



MOTHER-TONGUE: Children are learning to read and write through Lubuto Library Project's computer-based literacy lessons in seven Zambian languages.

ABOUT

EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries) is an international not-for-profit organisation dedicated to enabling access to knowledge through libraries in more than 60 developing and transition countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

The EIFL Public Library Innovation Programme (EIFL-PLIP) helps connect communities in developing countries to information through public libraries by supporting creation of innovative public library services.

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