

*An African
perspective: it's all very well, but we
face these key challenges!*

Leonard Mware
Computer Aid International

Why Africa?

- The world population amounted to 6.6 billion inhabitants, of whom 923 million lived in Africa.
- Although Africa has a share of around 14 percent of the world's population, it accounted for little over two percent of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2006 (ITU)
- While the global GDP amounted to 48'800 billion USD, Africa accounted for a GDP of 996 billion USD¹.
- Out of a total of 54 African economies, South Africa alone accounted for a GDP of 240 billion USD, 25 percent of Africa's total GDP.

- 2006 estimates indicates there were 1,270 million main (fixed) telephone lines worldwide, less than two percent of these were located in Africa, while Asia for instance had a share of 48 percent
- While the world saw 281 million broadband subscribers by the end of 2006, one million, less than 0.4 percent, had subscribed in Africa
- Broadband access has spread rapidly in Asia, where 104 million persons signed up for high-speed Internet access, followed by Europe and the Americas with 89 and 80 million subscribers respectively.
- 2006 estimates indicated Africa had 44 million or 3.8 percent of the world's 1.1 billion Internet users .

- Africa has a share of 7.2 percent of the worldwide 2.7 billion mobile .
- The African mobile market is still far away from saturation while the trend in several countries in the world is towards a second mobile per person.
- In 2006, Africa had a penetration of mobile cellular subscribers per 100 inhabitants of 22.0, the Americas of 62.0, Asia of 29.3, Europe of 94.3 and Oceania of 72.6.

Challenges to growth

- Poverty
- Economic and institutional Regime-
Governance
- Education – need for better education
- Infrastructure – optic fibre and undersea
cables expected to improve infrastructure.
- Innovation



The Four Pillars of the Knowledge Economy

EIR provides incentives for the efficient creation, dissemination, and use of existing knowledge

Economic and Institutional Regime

An educated and skilled population that can use knowledge effectively

Education

Interconnected Interdependent

To facilitate the effective communication, dissemination, and processing of information.

Information Infrastructure

Innovation consisting of organizations that can tap into the stock of global knowledge, assimilate and adapt it and create local knowledge

Innovation

© 2000 World Bank

Facing the problem – Macha Zambia

- Cost of Internet is a challenge to those living on less than a \$1 per day. For example, Zambia, 73% live on less than \$1 a day.
- Macha village is 80Km away from Choma district headquarters. It takes 80 Km, it takes 2 hour trip over rough road. The cost of the trip is about three days' salary (28,000 Kwacha) for most people in Macha.
- But a Computer Aid supported project in a very rural area of Zambia known as Macha has led to creation of 65 jobs and training of 200 people. The costs of internet here is \$1,100 for 128kbps via VSAT.
- The Linknet mesh wireless project have created opportunities and introduced better means of communication for their rural community
- Computer Aid works with partner Linknet Zambia. Computer Aid have supplied 200PCs and 400 wireless routers for this projects.

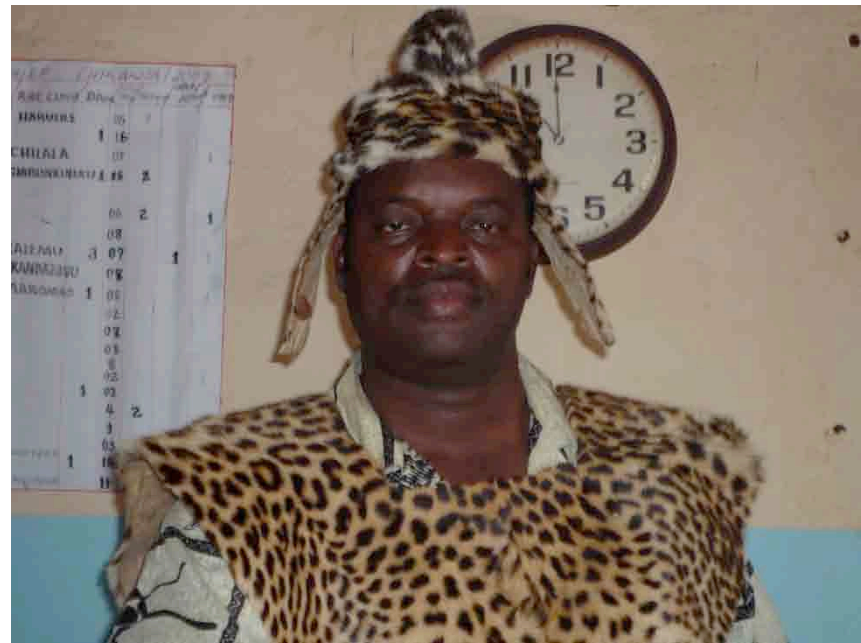
Facing the problem: Macha - Zambia


P1000115.MOV



Macha - Zambia





- Computer Aid / Kenyatta university in Nairobi have supplied 5 PCs to this school. The student population is 2300 students and school is in slum are catering for a big refugee population. Is the number of PCs enough and is this a priority for the school?



Challenge - inclusivity

