# MAENDELEO FOUNDATION

# Maendeleo Foundation Profile 2013

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# BACKGROUND

Maendeleo means progress in the Swahili language. We are a Ugandan not-for-profit Non Governmental Organization founded in 2007 and registered with the Uganda NGO Board with the registration number; **S.5914/8196**. We are committed to helping build a productive computer services industry in Uganda, connecting people to information using the latest internet technologies, and thereby increasing personal incomes and boosting the local economy.

It is our purpose to make available technologies, teaching materials, and training to people in Uganda who do not currently have the infrastructure or funding to access such resources, for the ultimate purpose of helping to build a foundation for a computer service industry and increasing literacy. With resources and knowledge there is no reason Uganda cannot compete in the computer services sector in the world economy, in which export of computer services has become a major part.

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| **Target Group** | Our programs are open to people from all walks of life, age groups and nationalities. We are a non-exclusive organization that serves people in all their different capacities. . |
| **Area of operation** | Our mobile setup and strong partnerships with various organizations enables to serve the whole of Uganda. |
| **Vision** | To help people in Uganda obtain the technology skills needed to build a productive computer services industry to promote economic development, increase personal incomes and boost the local economy. . |
| **Mission** | To complement the existing education system by making computers available to people of all ages, providing customized training, and encouraging and supporting the formation of Information Communication Technology businesses. |
| **Our Philosophy** | Our approach is simple - we refuse to compromise when it comes to quality. We set our standards high and then we aim to surpass them. We do this by investing time in the continuous improvement of services and by building a team that is knowledgeable and dedicated to ensuring that we exceed the power needs of our beneficiaries and clients. |

## Our values

We believe in client satisfaction and our values help us maintain a friendly environment while keeping alive a fast and secure working platform.

- Integrity

  We embrace the highest standards of ethical behavior in every aspect of our business to build an organization that is trusted by its beneficiaries, clients and stakeholders.

- Innovation

  We thrive on creativity and inventiveness. In today's fast-paced technological environment, innovative ideas, concepts, and processes are essential to the continued success and growth of any organization.

- Equality

  We operate on a non discrimination policy where we respect people of all genders, beliefs, ethnic backgrounds and ages. We treat all people with respect and accord them equal attention.

- Teamwork

  Our culture of teamwork allows us to combine the quality and expertise of our professional staff to deliver optimum solutions to our clients.

- Excellence

  Our commitment to professional excellence ensures that our clients receive the highest quality service.

- Communication

  We ensure that we communicate openly, accurately and in a timely manner with our stakeholders.

- Transparency

  Transparency and accountability is at the core of all our undertakings and transactions.

## Our objectives

a) To provide professional Information Communications Technology (ICT) training in schools, communities and other institutions where such training is not available.

b) To conduct Information Communication Technology awareness and outreach programs through workshops and seminars and advocacy forums.

c) To support and supplement programs aimed at ICT promotion and availability.

d) To establish linkages with institutions, organizations and programs that aim to provide access to ICT services in Uganda.

# PROGRAM AREAS / ACTIVITIES / SERVICES

- **Information and communications Training:** We operate innovative Mobile Solar Computer Classrooms that are designed to address the problems of limited hands-on technology instruction in schools and communities. Working in partnership with schools, community centers, community libraries and local organizations we introduce and train computer skills to people.

- **Business skills training and incubation:** At our Advanced Computer Training Information and Incubation Centre in Mukono, older students, unemployed youth, and women's groups are taught business skills relevant to real world jobs and are given free access to the internet for research and learning purposes. We also incubate businesses at the centre and provide support and marketing tools to young entrepreneurs.

- **Community Empowerment and Outreach:** With our Mobile Solar Computer Classrooms, we reach out to community centers and libraries throughout Uganda. Many remote places we visit do not have the infrastructure to support typical computer installations. We provide computer and internet training to show new possibilities to these communities, demonstrate alternative power sources, and inspire community leaders to invest in new technologies for economic development.

- **Software Development:** Recognizing that trainees of every age have different learning abilities and levels of experience with technology, especially with the poor infrastructure in the developing world, we design localizable self-teaching computer training software that allows each trainee to learn at his or her own pace following instructions in his or her own language.

- **Computer Training Workshops and Seminars:** We organize customized computer training workshops and seminars during which we sensitize community members about the role of computers and the internet in economic growth related to their fields of interest.

- **Consultancy and IT Equipment maintenance:** We provide consultation to schools, community groups, NGOs and companies throughout Africa and Asia regarding innovative ICT solutions, reusable resources and alternative power solutions. In addition to this we also provide quality maintenance and servicing of IT equipment.

- **Solar Computer Lab Installations:** Lack of electricity discourages many communities, schools, and other organizations to install computer labs. Maendeleo Foundation, using past experience and extensive testing, works hand in hand with organizations to make such installations happen, using low wattage netbooks and solar power.

# THE MOBILE SOLAR COMPUTER CLASSROOM (MSCC)

The Mobile Solar Computer Classroom consists of a modified Toyota RAV4 (with a custom rack on top to support solar panels), three 80-Watt solar panels, one 200 mA battery, 15 Intel Classmate PC laptop computers and 1 Internet Router, a 5m by 3m foldable tent, 8 folding tables, and 16 folding chairs. All our material is custom-designed to fit into the car with two computer teachers.

The Mobile Solar Computer Classrooms (MSCCs) provide access to technology and hands-on instruction in rural communities throughout Uganda that lack resources, such as electricity and computers. One mobile classroom serves the suburbs of central Uganda around the Mukono district, reaching out to five schools on a weekly rotation throughout the school year. Every year approximately 2,000 students receive extensive computer training through this program. In between school trimesters, this mobile classroom is used to train teachers.

Our second mobile classroom reaches out to a network of community libraries throughout Uganda where we organize week-long training sessions with a variety of community members. Attendees include women's groups, school children, teachers, unemployed youth, civil servants, university students, and local business people. This builds a foundation of computer literacy to prepare these communities to access information and share their knowledge with others.

These classrooms have three very distinct benefits. The first and most obvious is that they are bringing the building blocks of computer literacy to hundreds of school children every week. The second is a strong, and already visible, ripple effect: students who are motivated by learning about computers are finding that they can use that same disciplined approach in their other studies. Finally, the third benefit, which will have long-term payoffs, is communities and schools discover the opportunities presented by computer skills.
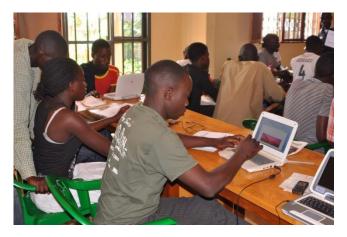
# THE ADVANCED COMPUTER TRAINING INFORMATION AND INCUBATION CENTER (ACTIIC) PROJECT

At this Center, older students are learning computer skills applicable to real-world jobs. In addition, the Center provides education in business skills, not widely taught in Ugandan schools. It operates between school terms, in evenings, and weekends so those who are working or in school can still attend.

The Center offers classes in basic, advanced computer training and business skills and it is also used for community empowerment activities, such as group meetings and reading camps.

Furthermore the center acts as an incubation centre for young entrepreneurs where it provides office space equipment and marketing resources until they are able to afford running a business on their own.

The future of the centre is to provide jobs for our trainees through outsourcing jobs from our partners.



It is part of our goal to open and support similar training centers in other strategic locations throughout Uganda.

# THE CONNECT UGANDA PROJECT



A computer services industry can go a long way towards improving living standards in Uganda. New Internet infrastructure is opening up opportunities for those living in nearly every corner of the country. To reach even the remotest corners, we are now working with the quickly growing Ugandan Community Library Association (UgCLA – www.ugcla.org) which has more than 90 member libraries throughout the country.

The Connect Uganda Project is a unique partnership with community libraries that links rural Ugandan farmers with critical agricultural information to improve their farming skills through the power of technology and the Internet. We work with libraries in remote locations where we install, solar power, 3 netbooks fully connected to the internet and train librarians and community members in computer skills and information access.

The libraries are gathering data from local and national sources to provide information in local languages to farmers in their communities.

# PARTNERS

There are so many development challenges that face the ICT industry and as Maendeleo Foundation tries to bridge the digital divide, we cannot meet these development challenges by ourselves. We realize the importance of having collaborations with other companies and organizations to help us achieve a bigger goal. We are always open for positive partnerships as a string that strengthens us and a platform to reach more people.

## Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT)

Digital Opportunity Trust is a Canadian International NGO supporting a global network of DOT organizations leading economic and educational change in countries throughout Africa, the Middle East, Asia and America.

Digital Opportunity Trust provides and facilitates business and ICT training at our Training Centre in Mukono through the ReachUp program. The ReachUp program which targets youth and women is essential in empowering people with life skills, entrepreneurship and micro enterprise development as well as nurturing young entrepreneurs.

## Uganda Community Libraries Association

The Uganda Community Libraries Association (UgCLA) with its network of libraries throughout Uganda gives Maendeleo Foundation the opportunity to introduce computers and internet to rural communities that are served by these libraries. UgCLA is fundamental in connecting us with libraries as well as providing us with the necessary information concerning the communities that these libraries serve.

Through this partnership, we were able to pilot our Connect Uganda Project in 5 Community Libraries spread out across Uganda.

## Uganda Rural Literacy and Community Development Association (URLCODA)

This organization is instrumental in connecting Maendeleo Foundation with community libraries and schools in the West Nile Region. Through their help and with a team of their volunteers we are able to brace the communities of the West Nile Region with our Mobile Solar Computer Classroom. We continue to work with this organization as we explore ways to further incorporate our innovative ICT training programs into rural education programs.

## Makerere University College of Education Centres for Lifelong Learning

Makerere Centre for Lifelong Learning (CLL) is working with Maendeleo Foundation and they are using Maendeleo Foundation Training Center as their focal point in Mukono to provide community capacity building short courses. The short certificate courses offered include Project Planning and Management, Public Administration and Management and Administrative law.

## Media Action

Media Action is an Alaskan based NGO that promotes Peace through use of different media platforms. We are working with this organization to promote Peace in the West Nile Region through Films. So far we have worked on 3 Peace and Film workshops in Arua, Yumbe and Koboko where 80 participants have been trained in basic computer skills, film making and editing.
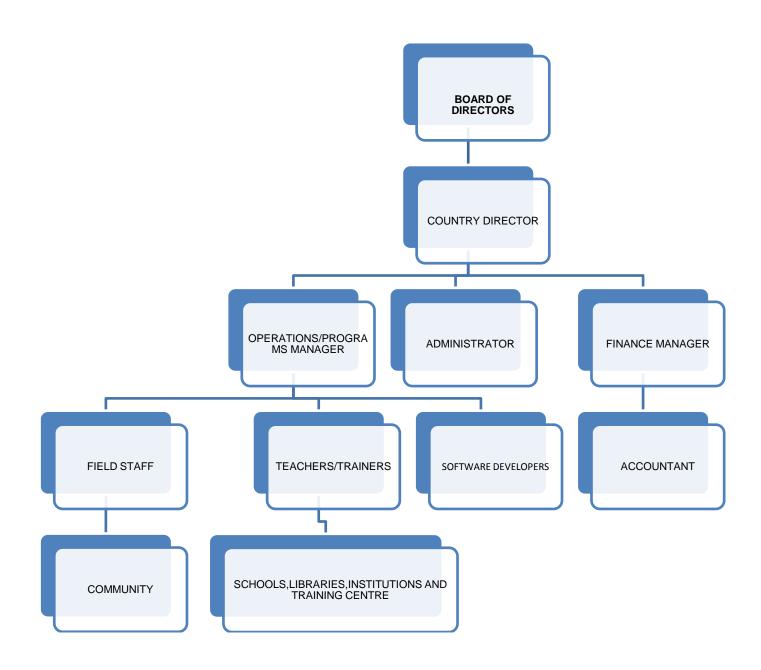
# IMPACT AND RECOGNITION

❖ We have reached 28,700 people with computer skills training using the Mobile Solar Computer Classroom.

❖ In 2013, the Mobile Solar Computer Classroom project made it to the Finalists of the WISE Awards 2013.

❖ In February of 2012, Maendeleo Foundation's Advanced Training Center opened in Mukono. Since inception the centre has graduated 145 Business students and 57 students in Basic and Advanced Computer Skills courses.

❖ In 2012 to 2013 we successfully piloted the Connect Uganda Project in 5 Ugandan Community Libraries.

❖ A grant was awarded by Electronic Information For Libraries (EIFL) in 2012 for a pilot of the Connect Uganda Project, which will take place in 5 different language speaking regions of the country.

❖ In 2009, Maendeleo Foundation won Intel's "Inspire-Empower Challenge," in the category of education. See the video shown at the awards ceremony.

❖ Kageno.org, a New York based NGO, used the Maendeleo Foundation software and program model to open its own Mobile Solar Computer Classroom in Kenya.

❖ Intel funded a case study on Maendeleo Foundation's Mobile Solar Computer Classroom in early 2009. See the case study here: http://www.maendeleofoundation.org/MSCC_case_study.pdf

# SOURCE OF FUNDING

1. Grants: The biggest percentage of the organization's revenue is through grants. We periodically send out grant requests for our projects.

2. Donations: We periodically receive donations from well wishers, friends and our Board of Directors.

3. Partnerships: We strive to create positive partnerships with various organizations that meet different budget lines for our programs

4. Sale of services: We provide trainings and secretarial services to companies and organizations at a fee so that we are able to meet some of our program expenses

# 1. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

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│COMMUNITY│ │ SCHOOLS,LIBRARIES,INSTITUTIONS AND│
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## LIST OF EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS AT MAENDELEO FOUNDATION

| NAME OF HUMAN RESOURCE | GENDER | AGE | QUALIFICATION | RESPONSIBILITY/POSITION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ms. Kamukama Asia | Female | 28 | B.A Development Economics Certificate in Project Planning and Management | Country Director and programs manager |
| Ms. Nandawula Susan | Female | 27 | B.A Commerce | Administrator and Accountant |
| Mr. Walusimbi John | Male | 35 | Diploma in Management Information Systems<br><br>Diploma in Electrical Engineering | Training Officer |
| Ms. Judith Nankya | Female | 35 | Grade III Teacher Certificate in Information Technology | School Computer Trainer and community mobiliser |
| Mr. Isaac Kiddawalime | Male | 22 | Diploma in Mass Communication | Computer Trainer and Marketing Officer |
| Mr.Laurence Bahiirwa | Male | 24 | B.A Commerce | Computer Trainer and PR officer |
| Ms. Nakirya Zabbinah | Female | 30 | B.A Social Work | Training and community liaison officer |
| Mr. Eric Morrow | Male | 43 | Software Architect and Engineer | Educational Software Development Technician |
| Ms.Nabuuma Elizabeth | Female | 28 | B.A Information Technology | IT Consultant |