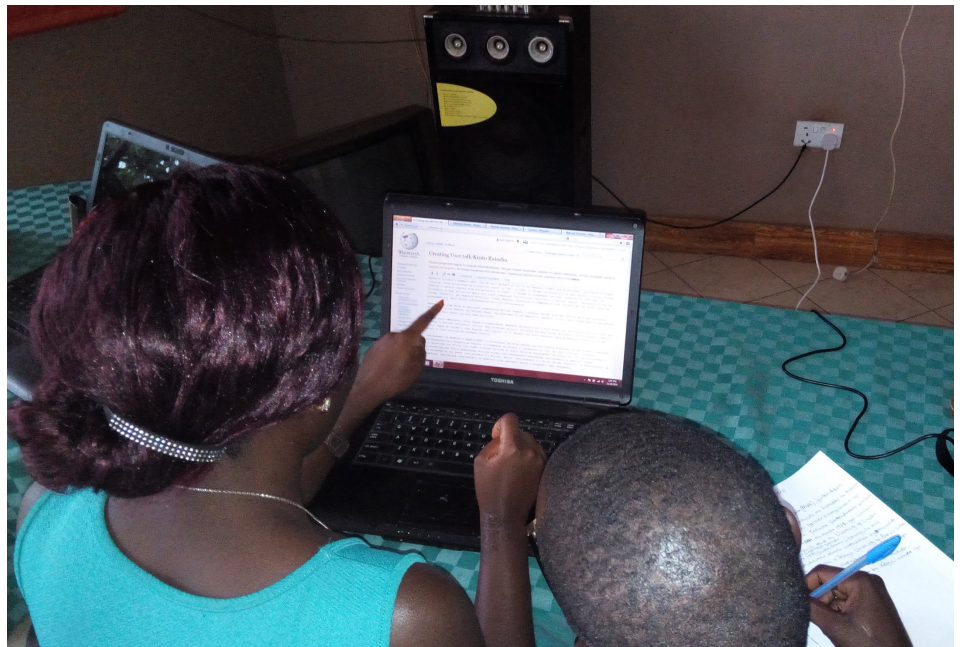




Beyond the Net

Promoting Use of Open Education Resources in Uganda Schools



Internet Society Uganda

Chapter Interim Report

June 20 2017

1. Project information

- **Project leader – Lillian Nalwoga, lillian@isoc.ug**

1. Team members *Paul Kiguba*

2. Wilson Abigaba
3. Erina Mukuta
4. Ismail Ssentenda
5. Anatole Kiriggwajjo
6. Joan Nakunja Mukasa
7. Mugunga John
8. Irene Nakasita

- **Partner organizations**

1. Red Cross Uganda,
2. St. Anthnoy Masaka
3. St. Emmanuel Kazo Secondary School
4. Department of African Languages, Makerere University

- **Total amount awarded – USD15,000**

- **Period covered by this report – August 2016 – June 2017**

2. Project Summary

The project aims to translate English reading materials suitable for school children from English Wikipedia to Luganda Wikipedia. The project is in line with the Internet Society's mission as it seeks to promote access to localized content online for underserved communities – in this case young people. To date, we have translated 150 open education resources to Luganda and had these uploaded to the Luganda Wikipedia page - <https://lg.wikipedia.org>. Together with partners, we have trained students at Makerere university and teachers at the targeted schools to create and upload articles on the Wikipedia page.

3. Project Background and Justification

Lack of relevant localised content is one of the major obstacles hindering internet development in Africa. By undertaking this project, we seek to contribute to addressing this problem by availing localised content online in Luganda - one of Uganda's 39 indigenous languages.

We want to empower young people – those in schools to utilise the use of open education resources like Wikipedia in their learning.

4. Project Objectives

1. Generate up to 300 translated articles on Wikipedia
2. Translate Wikipedia software into Luganda
3. Train students and teachers on how to access and contribute to Wikipedia
4. Create awareness on the use of Luganda Wikipedia in the selected schools
5. Conduct advocacy meetings for the adoption of Luganda Wikipedia as an education resource in Uganda schools.

6. Project Activities Completed so far

No.	Objective	Planned activity	Completed
1.	Generate up to 300 translated articles on Wikipedia	Continued content and language check of articles for Luganda Wikimedia as well as English versions of articles produced in the project	YES
		Training in how to write articles to improve people's lives	YES
2.	Translate Wikipedia software into Luganda	Software translation into Luganda	This has not been done partially done as the translation needs more technical expertise. In May 2017, we were paid a courtesy visit from Wikimedia Sverige and they offered assistance in translating the homepage interface. They also highlighted that the activity needed more than 3 persons to undertake, therefore more resources would be needed to have wiki editors and technical team to accomplish this.
3.	Train students and teachers on how to access and contribute to	We have provided training to teachers in how to use Wikipedia content with focus on the	Following the slow kickoff of the project, we decided to focus on 2 schools. In conjunction with Nature Uganda

	Wikipedia	translated articles. The teachers have in turn used these articles in the classroom teaching	two day Wikipedia training at the Masaka Red Cross Offices took place on the 20 th to 21 st December, 2016. The training was attended by <i>NatureUganda's</i> technical youth working groups and teacher from ST. Anthony Secondary School, Masaka.
		We held a 1 day training session for 5 teachers from the 2 schools. The event aimed at sharing knowledge and best practices among the teachers while at the same time explore new ways to use the translated materials and the portal.	<p>The training started off with brief introductions of the participants. I made an introduction about Wikipedia and the languages available to the participants for use. I showed participants how to create accounts on Wikipedia and we proceeded to the lab for a practical session.</p> <p>In this practical session participants created accounts, User pages on both English and Luganda Wikipedia after which we proceeded for a break. The last half of the day participants learnt how to edit on Wikipedia either by improving an article in their home area or creating a new article on both English and Luganda Wikipedia</p>
4.	Create awareness on the use of Luganda Wikipedia in the selected schools	In conjunction with Nature Uganda, we conducted a two day Wikipedia training at the Masaka Red Cross Offices took place on the 20 th to 21 st December, 2016. The training was attended by <i>NatureUganda's</i> technical youth working groups and teacher from ST. Anthony Secondary School, Masaka.	Completed

1. Project outcomes

- To-date, we have translated 150 articles to Luganda (see attached report). We are also working on changing the Luganda homepage interface with support from Wikimedia Sverige.
- We are exploring a partnership with Wikimedia Sverige, who are working around documenting cultural heritage data in Uganda. As such we have been earmarked to partner with them in uploading archeological artifacts from the Uganda museum to Wikipedia.

2. Any changes in the design of the project

In the early stages of the project, we received slow uptake from the partners. We thus agreed with the lead translator to consider translating articles on Wikipedia that were relevant to school settings. Some of these articles included those related to sustainable development goals, health, environment, etc. We also reduced the number of articles to be created from 300 to 150.

The slow start also meant, we had to reduce on the number of meetings to be held to focus mainly on getting the articles up on the portal. We therefore decided to hold one stakeholder meeting – that is the inception meeting. The rest of the engagements involved online and telephonic meetings.

We also had to drop one school (The school of the deaf) which was to benefit from the translated articles. Instead, we focused on the other two schools as they promised to deliver immediate results.

Moving forward, we decided to host a Wikipedia convention with all stakeholders as the last project activity. This convention will bring together different stakeholders working on local content, copyright, Intellectual property, among others. This meeting will be held in the first week of August 2017.

3. Dissemination and Chapter presence

In April 2017, we presented the project works at a meeting organized by Wikimedia at the Entebbe Municipal council. Wikimedia Sverige is implementing a project around documenting cultural heritage data in Uganda

(https://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Connected_Open_Heritage). Thus, the

Chapter has been earmarked to partner with them to digitize archeological artefacts at the Uganda museum. We hope to further translate this material once it has been uploaded on Wikipedia. The team also visited our offices and met some of the project staff. See -

at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wikimedia_Sverige,_ISOC_Uganda_and_Luganda_Wikipedia_-_WMSE.jpg

4. How could other Chapters help you disseminate the project?

Once finalized, other Chapters can assist it disseminating the project by sharing it on social media and within their chapters.

5. Any additional information that would be useful to the Internet Society community for purposes of an interim report.

We plan to continue improving the homepage interface and hold a dissemination event in early August.