



Government
Tanzania

The iKnowledge Project

Bringing high speed
satellite internet
connectivity and
digital skills training
to teachers in
Tanzanian schools



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The Challenge

Schools in Tanzania are often located in underserved areas, beyond the reach of traditional network infrastructure. Over 100,000 teachers struggle to access up-to-date teaching materials and lack sufficient ICT training, directly impacting future employment prospects for teachers and learning outcomes for students.

The Solution

The iKnowledge project, led by Avanti Communications, has deployed high speed broadband connectivity to 250 schools across Tanzania. The project provides digital skills training for teachers and educational resources that can be used in the classroom for students.

The broadband is deployed via Avanti's Ka-band HYLAS 2 satellite with 100% coverage of Tanzania, with local Service Provider Infinity Africa providing the service and installing the VSAT system. The ICT hardware, digital training and educational software are delivered in partnership with Avanti and Camara Education Tanzania. The project is funded under the UK Space Agency's International Partnership Space Programme (IPSP).

Summary

Region: Europe
Vertical: Broadband; Education
Partners: Camara Education Tanzania, Infinity Africa, President's Office Regional Administration & Local Government (PORALG), Tanzanian Education Authority (TEA), UK Space Agency, Universal Communication Service Access Fund (UCSAF)

The Results

There have been many positive outcomes from the iKnowledge project, such as improvement in the level of digital literacy and quality of teaching in core curriculum subjects, through a sustainable training model of 'Train the Trainer', which has the capacity to train 5,000 teachers. The overall project will also benefit 150,000 students who now have access to the latest digital education.

Additionally, the schools involved in iKnowledge are working with Tyndall University in Dublin to promote the Young Scientists Tanzania competition, encouraging interest in science for girls. Using Skype, the students do joint experiments with the university and communicate with other schools involved in the project.

The project has also implemented community Wi-Fi hotspots, allowing community members to buy internet data packages, generating revenue that subsidises broadband access at the schools.

Science for Marginalised Girls

Cultural and social pressures, as well as distances from schools, can hinder girls from getting an education, resulting in fewer than 20% of African women completing their education.

In Kagera, a girls' hostel has been set up near a school to allow girls to stay, reducing the journey to and from school, enabling more time to study and access online materials.

Zeze Secondary School

Rural western Tanzania not only has no existing network infrastructure, but also lacks electricity due to a shortage of resource and investment, with less than 25% of people having access to electrical power.

Through the Tanzania Development Trust, a fundraising event was held to raise money for the procurement and installation of solar power in the school. The solar panels provide lighting for the students to study and revise for exams in the evening.



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