



Case Studies Highlighted by the Youth Employment Network

Microsoft's Pan-African Unlimited Potential (UP) Programme in Partnership with African Governments¹:

Microsoft's overall aim is to work to broaden digital inclusion and to bring the benefits of technology and technology skills to one quarter of a billion people by 2010 through its various community investment programmes. The Unlimited Potential project aims to raise the technical capacity and skills of youth across 20 African countries. Primarily targeting teenagers (12-19), this is a significant effort to enable them to participate in the knowledge society by staying abreast of the latest IT tools. By encouraging communication skills, collaboration and team work among students, the programme allows them to reach out and compete with their peers in the global arena through the effective use of ICT. The program will be promoted mainly through the relevant Ministries of Education (and Ministries of ICT, Ministries of Youth where applicable) in respective African countries to ensure the appropriate outreach, as well as through local partners, previous participants and the programme champions.

Grant recipients include:

- **Liberia:**

Community Technology Learning Centre (CTLC). This Microsoft Unlimited Potential grant to the Liberia CTLC provides capacity-building support in ICT and access to technology. The centre will partner with 10 centres around the country to delivery this support and to provide access to technology and training.

- **Nigeria:**

Community Resource IT Training: Chief Bola Ige Information Technology Centre: With support from a Microsoft Unlimited Potential grant, this program will help develop IT skills for community members in underserved communities within the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria. Specifically, the program will assist people with physical challenges and visual impairments in Abuja, market women in Abeokuta, Muslim women in Purdar in Bauchi, fishermen and fisherwomen in Calabar, automobile spare-parts dealers in Enugu, and pottery makers in Kaduna. The centre will also partner with other centers that are in the different geopolitical zones.

Fantsuam Foundation: This project will enhance the capacity of the Fantsuam community-based Knowledge Resource Centre to help expand and provide enhanced livelihoods for its community members. This Microsoft Unlimited Potential grant will support programs at the center that directly benefit women and youth, as well as education and health institutions in the Kafanchan area. The Fantsuam Foundation provides microfinance assistance in 10 chiefdoms of Kaduna State, and with this assistance the local population will have access to affordable and accessible community-based information sources, including job announcements, open access educational resources, local government information, school-related information, and public health services

¹<http://www.microsoft.com/about/corporatecitizenship/citizenship/giving/overview/UPrecipients/mea2007.msp>