

Affordable Computers & Technology for Tanzania

ACTT's role in national awareness

ACTT collaboration and networking with government and partner organisations



About ACTT

Affordable Computers and Technology for Tanzania

Mkombozi's ACTT project serves as an income generating activity for Mkombozi's residential centre while simultaneously providing computer maintenance skills to young Tanzanians.

Specifically, ACTT sells computers that have been refurbished by street youth who live at Mkombozi and have been trained as hardware and software technicians. The refurbished computers are sold at a discounted rate to schools, businesses and not-for-profit organisations throughout Tanzania to promote information technology (IT), to enhance education, to create employment opportunities, and to assist older street youth to transition to independent living.

Learn more @ www.mkombozi.org/actt

About the Mkombozi Centre for Street Children

Mkombozi is one of the leading child-focussed agencies in northern Tanzania, working with over 1,000 vulnerable children and families a year in Kilimanjaro and Arusha Regions.

Mkombozi's mission is to help vulnerable children and youth to grow in mind, body and spirit and to build a more caring society for all. We capture local potential through learning and reflection and act as a catalyst for holistic development.

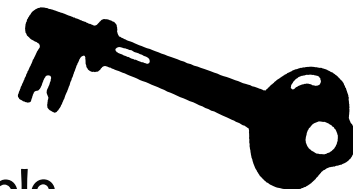
Mkombozi's vision is a world where all children and youth are prioritised and can access opportunities to become well rounded, inquiring and productive people who are working towards a more just and democratic society.

Why does Tanzania “need” ACTT ?

- To generate understanding of the critical role of IT in national development.
- To increase the likelihood that Tanzania will fully embrace IT for national development.
- To generate awareness of current statistics / indicators of IT involvement in the country.
- To influence government policy and its implementation.
- To clarify the role of non-government organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations (CSOs), stakeholders and the public in the implementation of IT.
- To play a direct role in the implementation of IT.
- To minimise the risk of marginalisation due to information poverty.
- To minimise the risk of producing redundant manpower.

IT is the key...

Mkombozi believes that IT is a critical tool in the alleviation of poverty and, as such, ensures that vulnerable youth can access appropriate education and build workplace skills.



Mkombozi also believes that IT is one of the greatest breakthroughs in current education systems – one which holds the potential to unlock wider, richer and more relevant educational experiences while contributing to the overall development of the country.

The benefits of IT education for children and youth:

- Communication skills which open up a young person's world through sharing and participation.
- Access to international teaching and learning resources on-line.
- Increased access to education through "open" and "e-Learning".
- Stimulating, quality-enhanced teaching and learning materials.

The role of IT in national development

- To improve the quality, content and reach of education by distance-learning.
- To increase the cost-effective, electronic distribution of information, thereby saving paper and resources.
- To promote the sale of Tanzanian products on the internet, thereby reaching a greater number of markets with better prices and at reduced cost.
- To improve the quality of health care by disseminating relevant information quickly and affordably.
- To introduce "e-Government" to improve quality, speed, and range of services delivered.
- To introduce and employ "e-Commerce" to reduce the cost of purchasing products.
- To improve the quality of agricultural extension services.
- To introduce new commercial opportunities into local / national markets.
- To promote productivity (efficiency, effectiveness, and reliability).

Key statistical indicators (as per ICT Policy 2003)

Indicators:	1961	1993	2002
Population (in millions)	12.3	26.7	33.6
Fixed line exchange capacity	11,300	125,703	234,640
Mobile operators	-	1	4
Mobile subscribers	-	1,500	700,00
Tele-density (lines per 100 people)	0.1	0.32	1.22
Data communications operators	-	-	16
Internet service providers	-	1	23
Internet subscribers (dial-up / wireless)	-	10	14,000
Internet capacity (Kbytes total bandwidth)	-	64	44,000
Television licenses	-	1	24
Radio broadcast licenses	1	2	18

Government initiatives to address the need for IT

- **Liberalisation:** For example, the splitting of Tanzania's postal and telecommunications services into (1) TCC - the regulator, (2) TTCL - the PSTN operator, and (3) TPC - International gateways in Dar and Zanzibar (i.e. TTCL and Zantel).
- **Establishment of legal and regulatory frameworks:** For example, formation of TCC and TBC, establishment of a commercial court, and the National Record and Archive Management Act.
- **Privatisation:** For example, partial privatisation of TTCL.
- **Government reforms:** Like those for public service and poverty alleviation.
- **Government projects / programs:** For example, IFMS, PCIS, TVT, Tanzania Global Development Learning Network, the National Payments System, and websites such as: www.tanzania.go.tz, www.moct.go.tz, www.tcc.go.tz, www.tzonline.or.tz, and www.tanzaniagateway.org.
- **New products, markets and services:** For example, tax exemption for computers and peripherals, increase in number of ISPs, data service providers, mobile operators and cyber cafes, and the establishment of rural community tele-centers and PoPs.

Government policies to address the need for IT

Importantly, Tanzania's government has gone beyond the initiatives just described, and has incorporated its recognition of the need for IT at the policy level as well.

According to the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) policy of 2003, Tanzania's government recognises that it must work with private and civil society in order to implement its policy and achieve the educational and development benefits afforded by national access to IT.

Consider the following extractions from the full text of governmental policy, in the specific areas of:

- **Strategic ICT leadership**
- **ICT infrastructure**
- **Human capital**



Government policies (continued)...

Strategic ICT leadership

“Since ICT is a powerful development facilitator, the Government will embrace ICT as an integral part of its development strategy and empower all citizens to use it to fight poverty, ignorance and disease so as to improve the quality of their lives.”

“The Government shall create the necessary enabling environment to facilitate the deployment, utilization and exploitation of ICT in all sectors of life.”

“The Government shall annually allocate funds equivalent to a reasonable proportion of GDP for ICT deployment, diffusion and universal access.”

“The Government will encourage public, private and community sector partnerships to jointly invest in ICT development.”

“The Government will support, through incentives and directives, bona fide institutions actively involved in the development and application of ICT.”

Government policies (continued)...

ICT infrastructure

“The Government will support, through incentives and directives, bona fide institutions actively involved in the development and application of ICT.”

Human capital

“The Government will require the teaching of ICT at all levels of the national system of public and private education and training in order to increase the size and quality of ICT-skilled human resource base in the country.”

“The Government will encourage and support formal and informal sectors to adhere to acceptable standards of examination and certification of ICT training programmes.”

“ICT deployment is to be especially inclusive and to proactively take into account gender and disadvantages groups.”

“The Government will encourage activities relating to life long training processes both formal and informal.”

ACTT's pivotal role as “collaborator”

In addition to its core activities, ACTT is an active force in the implementation of government policy and objectives, especially in terms of its collaboration with the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) and the Commission of Science and Technology (COSTECH) to:

- Identify the needs of institutions within TEA priority areas of support.
- Coordinate, monitor and evaluate the impact on supported schools.
- Share and exchange information and expert advice on TEA areas.

In this collaboration, both COSTECH and ACTT are mandated to:

- Supply computers to the list of schools provided by TEA.
- Provide service and maintenance.
- Provide resources mobilisation.
- Conduct sensitisation programs.
- Receive computers from Digital Links funded by the Barclays.

ACTT's supporters and donors

Barclays Bank

<http://www.barclays.co.uk>



Barclays has donated substantially to Mkombozi's ACTT project as part of their "Miles Ahead" campaign. Barclays is a UK-based financial services group, with a large international presence in Europe, the USA, Africa and Asia. It is engaged primarily in banking, investment banking and investment management.

Digital Links International (DLI)

<http://www.digital-links.org>



Mkombozi and DLI partner on the ACTT project. DLI helps people in the developing world have access to information technology. It does so by securing the donation of redundant PCs from private and public corporations in the UK, refurbishes them and provides them at low cost to schools, charities, community organisations and small enterprises in developing countries.

ACTT's supporters and donors (continued)...

Microsoft Unlimited Potential (UP)

<http://www.microsoft.com/citizenship/giving/programs/up/>

Microsoft UP is a global initiative designed to help broaden digital inclusion and aid global workforce development by providing technology skills through community technology learning centers (CTLCS). As part of the UP program, Mkombozi has received a donation to establish 13 CTLCS under the ACTT project.



Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH)

<http://www.costech.or.tz>

COSTECH's mission is to seek appropriate means to promote technology development, to co-ordinate research endeavours and to mobilise financial and academic support in order to implement/advise the Government on most efficient methods of achieving sustainable socio-economic development in Tanzania.



ACTT's supporters and donors (continued)...

Tanzania Education Authority (TEA)

<http://www.tea.or.tz>

TEA is a corporate body established to be a pioneer in sustainable securing and deploying resources for the improvement of quality, equity and access to education. TEA's mission includes effectively and efficiently deploying the funds to support educational interventions and stimulating public awareness and participation in education development.



Computers for Schools Kenya (CFSK)

<http://www.cfsk.org>

CFSK is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development of “e-competent” young Kenyans through the provision of computers and auxiliary services to public secondary schools, learning institutions and community access centres. CFSK is hosted at the Starehe Boys' Centre in Nairobi, and includes a Refurbishment and Support Centre.



Thank you !!

ACTT wishes to take this opportunity to extend sincere thanks and appreciation to its donors and partners, including those just mentioned, as well as the numerous individual donors in the UK.

It is their support that enables ACTT and Mkombozi to advance a national movement toward prioritising children at the government, community and family level.



“ACTT” now to promote IT skills and training in Tanzania !

Why support ACTT ?

When you support ACTT, you enhance employment opportunities for young people - a critical development priority in Africa, where half the population is under the age of 16.

How can you support ACTT ?

- Donate a used PC
- Buy a used PC
- Help establish a new IT lab
- Be an ACTT volunteer
- Join the ACTT team

Learn more...

www.mkombozi.org/actt

