

BOSCO UGANDA PROGRAMME

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Consistent with the Uganda Communications Commission's Rural Communication Development Policy, BOSCO Uganda was launched in April of 2007, bringing Internet and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Telephony to rural areas of Northern Uganda; with a vision “Open and Peaceful rural communities, ready to face the challenges and opportunities of the globalised world in the 21st century” and Mission “Provide innovative ICT (Information and Communication Technology) solutions using a collaborative, web-based approach to foster social and economic development and peace building in rural communities in Northern Uganda.

- Arch Bishop John Baptist Odama about BOSCO Uganda:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5htxnUzOk7E>
- BOSCO Uganda meets government state ICT Minister:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nY_d-1oYrgw
- Breaking the Silence: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4L2MFgo5rBs>

BOSCO Uganda focuses on providing access to information technologies. The three pillars of our work look at: 1) Opening communication channels among communities, whether former Internally Displaced People (IDP) or settled; 2) Opening communication channels between northern Uganda communities and the international community; 3) Support the development of Internet sites that lead to economic development through skill-building, improved education, and entrepreneurial programs.



The two decades war in Northern Uganda displaced over 90% of the population into IDP camps. Over 60,000 children and adults were abducted for soldiery and sexual slavery by the Lord's Resistance Army. Today, with peace returning to the region, communities are shifting from short-term emergency to early recovery and long term development efforts. This has brought on new challenges which include a lack of economical opportunities, difficulty coping with life in the homesteads after camp life, insufficient education facilities, and poor infrastructure (communication, electricity and roads) among others.



BOSCO Uganda equipping children with Basic ICT skills using the web 2. Trainer 0 Training Manual developed by BOSCO Uganda: In line with Government launched Peace, Recovery and Development Plan for the region to support the reconstruction and reconciliation of Peace, there is need to re-establish infrastructure, enhance economic growth; and set young people on the road to a productive life through access to educational scholarships, information technologies, and entrepreneurial programs.



Children at Pagak Youth Centre familiarizing themselves with the new information technologies at Pagak Youth Centre. BOSCO Uganda is also able to reach Children through Primary Schools. Today, BOSCO Uganda Network encompasses 13 sites (Pagak Primary School, Pabbo Primary School, Lacor Primary School, Pagak Youth Centre, Pabbo Youth Desk, Choope Community Site, Pabbo Comprehensive Secondary School, Pabbo Secondary School, Unyama National Teachers College, Gulu Core Primary Teachers College, Lacor St. Mary's College, Sacred Heart Seminary Lacor and Ocer Campion Jesuit College.

The need is to;

- Strengthen the existing sites while looking into expansion at regional level
- Increase female participation in programme development activities
- Increase active child participation in telling their story ; development & civic issues



With partners like you, we work at two levels to:

- Influence people's attitudes and behaviors through basic ICT skills training (Training of Trainers approach) and the provision of information on key development cross-cutting issues affecting young people and communities as well as dissemination of existing government laws, policies, guidelines and frameworks for responding to said issues.
- Promote collaboration among young people, community actors, development players through active participation in discussions (forums, blogs, wiki spaces, Skype, Google sites) to develop local content, document their stories (digital ethnography), articulate their needs, and propose local solutions. This is an empowerment mechanism for beneficiaries to confront challenges and opportunities they face and enable them assume accountability towards sustainable community development.