

LEARNING ABOUT LIVING

THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF FLHE

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Learning about Living (LaL) is a two year project designed to use Information and Communication Technology (ICT), to teach adolescent reproductive health education to young people in Nigeria. It is designed as an educational tool that can be used in and out of school to enhance the physical, reproductive and mental well-being of young people by engaging them in the issues and giving them accurate information to make informed decisions about their sexual health.

It involves the development and implementation of an e-learning system based on the national Family Life HIV/AIDS Education (FLHE) curriculum.

In addition to the e-learning tool, LaL will involve mobile phones to engage young people in several ways: A slogan/rap/poem competition, as well as a Question and Answer service.

Partners

This is a multi-stakeholder project led by OneWorld UK as project managers, working with over ten Nigerian and International partners including:

- ActionAid Nigeria (AAN)
- Action Health Incorporated (AHI), Lagos
- Butterfly Works Netherlands
- Education as a Vaccine Against Aids (EVA)
- Girls' Power Initiative (GPI)
- The Federal Ministry of Education (HIV/Aids Unit)
- The Federal Ministry of Health (ARH Unit)
- MTN Foundation through their SchoolConnect Program implemented by SchoolNet
- The Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC)
- World Population Foundation

Funding provided by

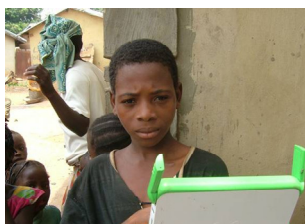
Oxfam Novib Netherlands; The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation USA; The Dutch Ministry through Butterfly Works

Project news

April Stakeholders' workshop: The project kicked off with a stakeholders' forum and Concept Development workshop in Abuja, in April. It brought together almost all of the important stakeholders for two days to lay the foundation for the project. Participants welcomed the initiative of OneWorld UK and partners, and a tremendous amount of support was promised, which we are very grateful for. Many useful details were discussed, including the name of the project, and the Steering Committee was inaugurated.

Visit to OLPC test village: We are working with the people behind 'One Laptop Per Child' initiative and the Classmate personal computers in Nigeria, on getting LaL to the little laptops, and in this way, reaching many more young people.

During the workshop in April, we visited the first test 'OLPC' school where the laptops had been with the children for six weeks. It was interesting to hear what they thought about them; the built in camera seemed to be the 'killer app'.



Contact LaL

Project Manager
Uju Ofomata
uju.ofomata@oneworld.net
UK: +44 (0)20 7239 1400
NG: +234(0)803300 7404

First test workshop: We have just completed the first test workshop by Butterfly Works and AHI in Queens College, Lagos. It provided the opportunity to test the first few lessons developed, to get valuable feedback from students and teachers which will be useful in completing the remaining lessons.

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Nigeria office: LaL now has an office space graciously donated within Action Aid International in Abuja. When she is not running around for meetings, the project manager, Uju Ofomata, will be working from there when she is in Nigeria. Our new project assistant Debbie Olumolu (who has recently had a baby boy – congratulations!!) will be working from the AAN office.

Main strategies for LaL

- E-learning method of teaching that addresses all aspects of adolescent reproductive health, prevention of HIV/AIDS and gender based violence and rights
- Teaching computer skills to empower young people
- Mobile phone (SMS) based question and answer service linked to the program to further extend the reach
- Engaging young people and encouraging creative thinking around the issues by launching various rap/poem/slogan competitions on mobile phones
- Linking to the distribution of the one million \$100 'One Laptop Per Child' OLPC programme and Intel's Classmate project

Next steps

- ❖ Completion of the remaining 18 lessons in the Junior Secondary School Version of the FLHE curriculum
- ❖ Collaborate with Alteq and Technology Support Centre to load the LaL into the Classmate personal computers, so the 100,000 Junior Secondary School students who are due to receive this in the next quarter will have access to the LaL
- ❖ 'Train the Trainers' workshop in November with AHI in Lagos and with GPI in Calabar
- ❖ Preparations for the launch of the mobile components of the LaL in December



Scenes from July test workshop, Lago

Background

LaL is the result of a MacArthur funded scoping study in Nigeria in 2006, on how the use of ICT can add value to the work of all organisations involved in adolescent reproductive health education in Nigeria.

The conclusion of this participative scoping study, which culminated in a well attended workshop held in May 2006 in Abuja, was to propose the development of an e-learning tool inspired by the innovative e-learning package, *The World Starts with Me*¹, in order to support the approved national FLHE curriculum. This would be adjustable per state, and would include a stand-alone CD-ROM version. An extension through mobile phones via SMS service will be connected to the LaL, allowing questions to be asked anonymously by young people, and answers obtained in order to extend the reach to young people in and out of school.

The tailor-made ICT tools that the project coalition is developing would have much to offer in bringing the curriculum alive and making it more effective both in and beyond schools. The kind of e-learning approach and resources represented by *'The World Starts with Me'* however, requires schools to have computers. The growing network of computers in Nigerian schools donated by organisations, such as MTN Foundation and Education Trust Fund, and the imminent arrival of one million laptops through the 'OLPC' and Classmate programme, creates the ideal environment for such e-learning resources. Furthermore the supporting mobile phone services can take the lessons out of the classroom to the daily lives of these young people.

For more, see and follow the test version online at www.learningaboutliving.org

¹*'The World Starts with Me'* was developed by Butterfly Works with the World Population Foundation