

SAMI Digital Communities Initiative



What's been happening?

In August 2016, a set of 20 tablets and accessories were purchased and delivered to the Kitale region of Kenya.



They were first used for a week-long maths camp, helping students to explore and be inspired by ideas around programming, problem-solving and big-data.



And for first time we were able to run a maths camp without the need for computer labs or electricity :-)



We could even run sessions outside!

These students were collecting data to analyse related to varieties of crops grown locally.



We've also now taken the maths camp on the road!



2 further camps have been held at the LEWA conservancy. More are planned for the rest of the year.



LEWA
WILDLIFE
CONSERVANCY

A UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed in 2013



Quotes and Figures:

The googlebra session and computer programming was ~~interesting~~ interesting. I learnt to make an app ~~from~~ using laptop which I enjoyed most. Thankyou for teaching us that.

““What I enjoyed most was the programming session. I used tablets to play blocky games and managed to reach level nine even though it needed thinking”



3 camps



250
students



30 teachers &
volunteers

Following the August maths camp, the DCI project had its **official launch**.

The goal was simple: **to use technology for improving livelihoods**. Initiatives were broadly spread across 3 areas



Schools



Agriculture



Enterprising Women



Work with schools



We initially started working with two local schools, one primary and one secondary.



Wekhonye Primary School
42% average maths grade

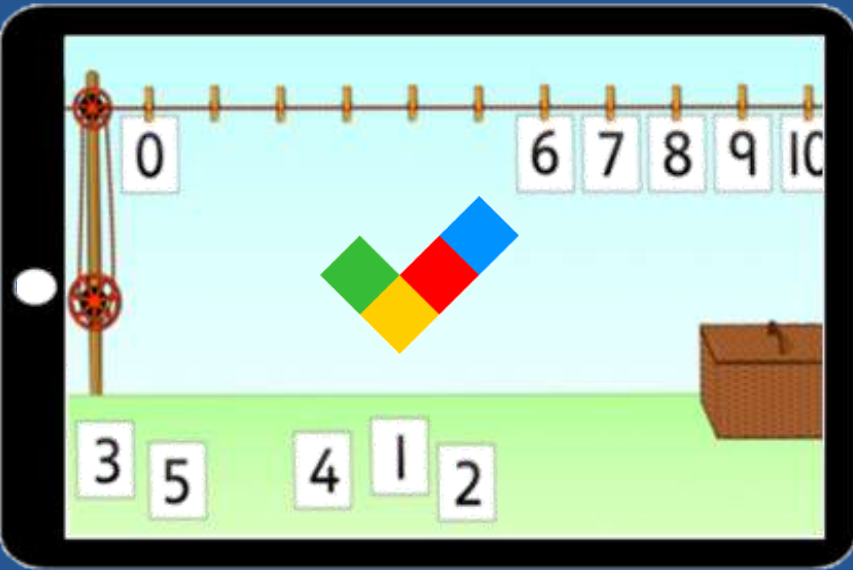


Wekhonye Secondary School
36% average maths grade

Local interns Mike and Patrick have been visiting daily to help the teachers and students access the devices.

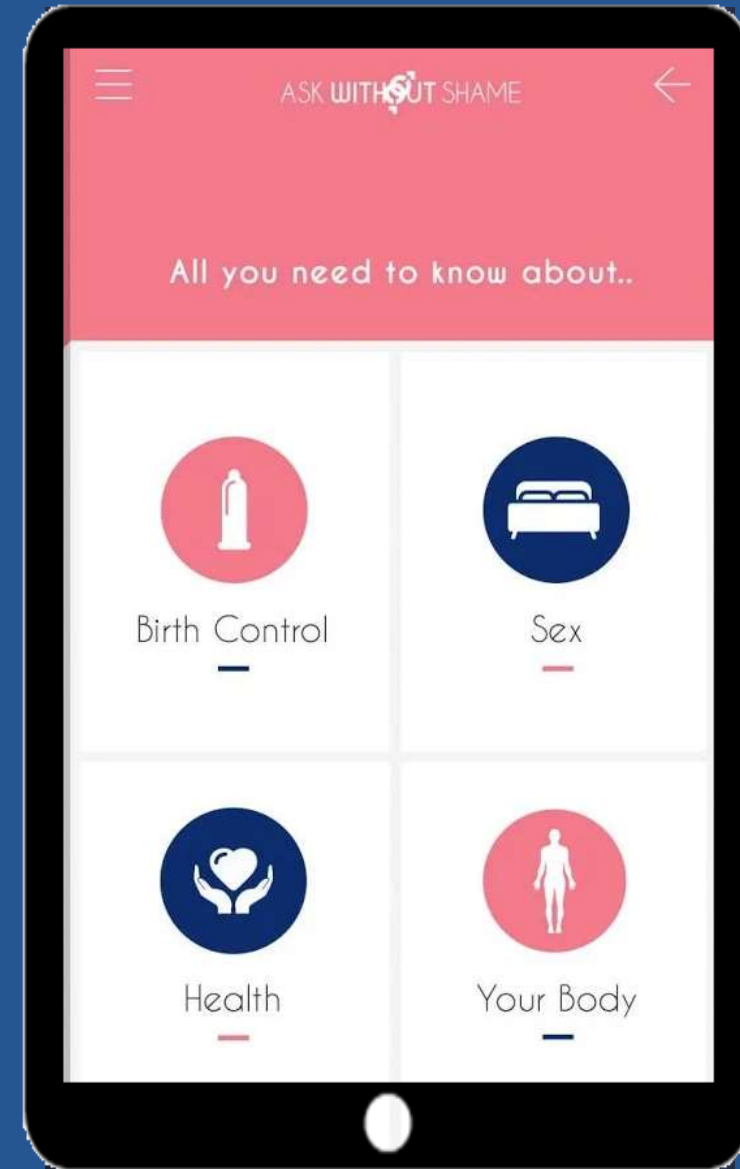


We've been using a number of really great apps, including a close collaboration with project **oneBillion**, a primary maths app with an excellent proven track record.



We've also been able to provide access to over 200GB worth of excellent content via a RACHEL Plus server unit.

Volunteers Cabrine and Liz also ran workshops for 58 girls to discuss gender and sexual health issues.



The 'ask without shame' app helped provide information to issues rarely discussed.

Quotes and Figures:

“Our pupils have not only started to like Maths, but they have also started to like school. Two pupils arrived today to ask for positions to be in our school. We are foreseeing a scenario in January whereby new admissions will increase further due to this program.”

Edwin Wafula
Deputy Head teacher



2 Schools



80 visits



5000+

student learning hours

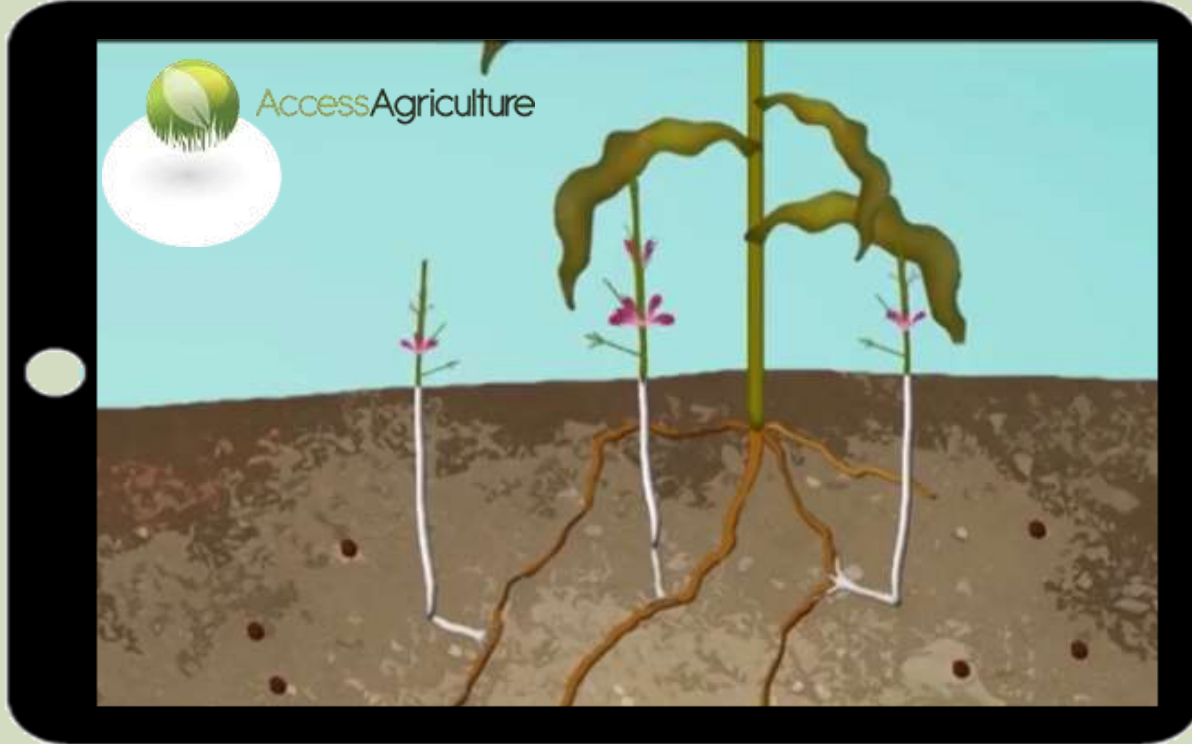
Work with agriculture



The tablets have been used to help in community workshops for farmers.



International experts have been helping to train local staff, and together they have customised and loaded the tablets with lots of informative documents and videos.



i Striga, or 'witchweed' can destroy up to 95% of a farmer's crop, causing annual losses of **\$7Bn** across Africa.

So far a total of 12 workshops have been held with more planned. Topics have included pests, diseases, soil health and erosion.



Each workshop provides information relevant to the **local context** for immediate use by the farmers. Word of them has been spreading fast and now there are up to **150 farmers** attending each.

Work with enterprising women



We have started running regular workshops to support local women in the community.



YouTube videos have been the primary source of information, helping to showcase local talent and explain ideas around finance and marketing.



Recycled Plastic Bags

Sisal Baskets

The videos have provided a deeper insight into some of the current local industries, as well as providing inspiration for future possibilities.

The team also made a trip to Mombasa to learn from the Camilla and Holly, founders of 'The Basket Room'.

THE BASKET ROOM

[Home](#)[Shop ▾](#)[Collections](#)[The Weavers ▾](#)[Style Inspiration ▾](#)[Info ▾](#)

Coastal Region Kenya: Sisal Baskets



The Basket Room identifies talented weavers from across Africa, and helps to provide access to international markets.

An incredible amount has happened since August, and we are highly excited to keep moving forward. We now have **60 tablets** on the ground, and an extended range of activities planned including:



Schools

- A formal research trial with the University of Nottingham to evaluate the impact of tablets with primary school learners.
- A visit from the government Ministry of Education to showcase the project.
- Pilot trials for new and emerging apps.
- Lots more visits to schools!



Agriculture

- Explore uses of tablets to help researchers collecting data on crop diversity and soils.
- Building local capacity to produce short videos and animations for farmers.
- Further community farmer workshops.



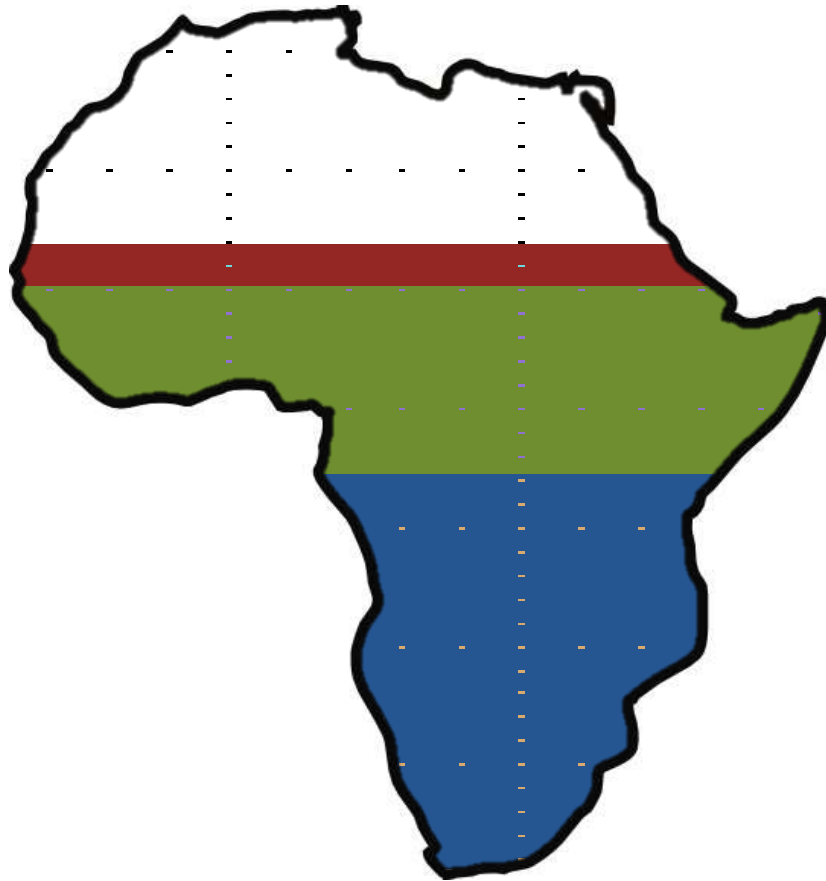
Enterprising Women

- Student internships for local undergraduates to gain work experience.
- Explore ways to provide access to international markets for locally produced arts and crafts.
- Specific financial literacy training around savings and loans.

SAMI will also be running more fundraising activities to help continue the project into next year.

As always, we work to ensure any money raised is put to clear, direct use. Here is an overview of the costs so far:

**Project
Budget
£8,150**



£400

workshops and events

£1,760

facilitation and transport

£3,795

**40 tablets*, accessories,
and operating expenses**



Digital Communities Initiative

*A second set of 20 tablets were delivered in January. We also received an additional 20 tablets from in-kind donations and matched funding

But for now all that there is left to say is...

A photograph of four young children, likely of African descent, gathered around a tablet computer. The child on the left is smiling and looking towards the camera. The child in the center is looking down at the tablet. The child on the right is also looking at the tablet. A fourth child is partially visible behind the others. They are all wearing blue and pink clothing. The background is a simple wooden structure.

Thank you!

From all of the team in Kenya and the UK we would like to extend a huge thanks to everybody who has made this work possible.

If you would like any more information about the DCI project or any other initiatives, please feel free to get in touch with us at:



Supporting African Maths Initiatives



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