

Centre for Youth and Development - UmozaNet



UmozaNet project aims at building on our existing work but also extending the existing community wireless models by enabling sharing and authoring of local digital resources and services.

The overall project goal is to design and develop a low-cost wireless wide area network architecture for providing access to local digital resources



What is Kolibri

- **Kolibri** is an open-source educational platform giving offline access to an openly licensed content library for use in low-resource contexts
 - **Runs on anything;** the Kolibri Learning Platform is designed to run on as many devices and operating systems as possible, leveraging existing legacy hardware or low-cost off-the-shelf devices. This includes Windows, Linux and macOS.
 - **Supports self-paced learning;** the Platform comes with tools such as a coach dashboard, exam creation, exercises, assignment of content for differentiated instruction, and a recommendation tool that displays useful and relevant next steps based on a learner's history, progress, and goals.
 - **Enables Syncing and Sharing;** Devices running the Kolibri Learning Platform can find and directly connect with each other over a local Wi-Fi network, allowing for easy content sharing and data syncing.

why Kolibri?

- In Malawi Access to educational information is a huge problem.
 - The student - book ration is 1: 10-15,
 - There is also a high student- teacher ration of 1: 130, Which also presents a problem when it comes to student teacher interaction during learning.
- This is why we opted for kolibri. It has improved students access to information and also encouraged independent learning among the students. We can easily add our local content on the platform.
- Kolibri also provides interactive and attractive method of learning which improves the students academic performance.

Our Approach

- ▮ We currently have 18 secondary schools which are using Kolibri. 4 of which are on our CN, planning to add 4 more by the end of this year.
- ▮ We have been working with teachers to digitize the Malawian syllabus and so far we have managed to do 4 subjects and the 5th is underway.
- ▮ We have conducted several teacher trainings to make sure teachers are using the resources they have.

Challenges

- Most of the teachers in the schools are used to the traditional method of teaching, therefore some have been quite reluctant to adopt the digital method.
 - We have organized a human centered design workshop on how we can encourage the adoption of OERs, i.e. kolibri
- There are inadequate computers in schools. So far we have been able to offer 20 computers per school.
 - Now we are able to provide up to 50 computers.
- Computers are used for learning opted subjects in schools.