
UPENN OLPCORPS KENYA

INTRODUCTION

Hello! We are 4 students from the University of Pennsylvania who formed UPenn OLPCorps to work with Magoso Center in Kenya beginning around June 18. Our team members are listed below:

Name	Year	Major(s)	Email
Hafeez, Saara	2010	Information Management	saara@wharton.upenn.edu
Kumar, Nikhil	2010	Music, Decision Processes	nkumar2@wharton.upenn.edu
Modi, Neal	2010	Management, Public Policy	nealsm@wharton.upenn.edu
Wei, Ran	2010	Finance, Computer Science	ranwei@wharton.upenn.edu

LOCAL NGO PARTNER

The [Magoso Center](#) operates 3 schools in Kibera, Kenya; we will work with one in the Mashimoni area. Our contact, Zablon Wagalla, is Director and Head of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Programmes.

More than a school, Magoso views itself as a way of life for children, supplementing its educational programs with music, art, and drama. Student enthusiasm runs high at Magoso; even when explicitly told not to, half of the students will often come.

Zablon himself was recognized for his past [accomplishments](#) in using innovative technologies to empower youth and bring them out of poverty. He describes himself as a social entrepreneur and subscribes wholeheartedly to the idea of creating “agents of change”.

LOCAL SCHOOL

Magoso School operates from January 5 to December 5 every year and the only break period is in winter. Students will be in school for our entire stay, Mon-Fri, 8AM-5PM. Magoso has:

374 students in total
270 aged 6-12
154 aged 6-12 in our location

Zablon has identified 100 students who will receive laptops for our project

Grade	Students
4	30
5	25
6	25
7	20

EDUCATIONAL GOALS & PROJECTS

We believe in learning through doing. Our project will enable children to use the XO's tools in order to engage in active learning. We aim to give children the maximum time possible to explore on their own, supporting their efforts and building their self confidence. .

We will use the XO laptop to enhance Magoso's culture of creativity and sharing. Students have already created a [class CD](#) with the help of an external studio. With tools such as Write and Record, they will be able to produce on their own. Others, like Scratch and Scratch Cards, will enable them to expand their creative horizons to video productions, digital art, writing, and entirely new mediums.

By the end of our stay we would like students to regularly post their ideas to a blog. They will simultaneously work on research projects to document and share experiences in their community. To that end, we'd like to acquire older, 1-3MP digital cameras.

Our students will be taught to learn and learn to teach, using their knowledge to mentor others. We specifically targeted students in middle grades so that they will be able to fulfill this role and our 100 laptops will benefit more than 100 students.

SUSTAINABILITY

Our team will work with Zablon and 6 other ICT-trained volunteers from Magoso who will continue our work after we leave. We will stay in touch through regular email and phone correspondence to offer support.

We also plan to create an organization at the University of Pennsylvania to:

- increase awareness of the OLPC initiative and Magoso
- recruit additional volunteers for future projects
- conduct fundraising campaigns for Magoso
(ex: sell student music CDs. Past campaign sold 20 for \$50 each)

With 3 schools, 379 students and 30-40 new students every year, there is much room for future work with Magoso. In Zablon's words, "we will continue working until every child in Kibera can have a laptop like the privileged children".

LOGISTICS

Zablon has made living arrangements for us in an apartment along Ngong road, and will help us with transportation and finding food.

Zablon and much of his staff are ICT trained and able to help with setup. Between us we have extensive experience with equipment setup, Python, and Unix/Linux environments. We can also hire local services to supplement our own technical expertise.

Magoso will hire a van to receive the 230kg shipment of laptops and equipment. Zablon has experience receiving shipments from abroad and has established contacts within the ministry who

will ensure a smooth delivery. There is a secure room in the school that will be used to store the laptops until they are distributed to children.

The school is powered and is making arrangements to have broadband internet through [FlashCom](#). Most students' homes are close enough to take advantage of mesh networking and though only 10% are powered, battery power and alternative power sources to enable students to continue use at home.