



Connect To Learn

Aiming to Improve Learning Outcomes of Impoverished Girls in Myanmar

The Connect To Learn program is a public-private partnership that brings mobile technology and 3G-based Internet access to underserved schools in Myanmar, offering students the opportunity to leapfrog to a 21st century education. The program promotes universal access to quality secondary education by providing user-friendly 3G learning devices for teachers and students to use in the classroom. The program delivers information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure and training to approximately 21,000 students and 155 teachers from 31 schools. In a country where retention of girls in school is a growing challenge, Connect To Learn aims to effectively integrate teacher training programs to enrich learning experiences, reverse the tide of girls dropping out of school and improve workforce readiness.

MYANMAR

2016 Statistics*

Population (est.)  **56.3 million**

Life Expectancy  **66 years**

GDP Per Capita (est.)  **US\$5,500**

Mobile Penetration (est.)  **16.2%**

Challenge

- For many schools in Myanmar, mobile broadband offers the only viable connection to the Internet and a 21st century education.
- In 2015, only 39% of the population aged 15-65 owned a mobile phone and an active SIM card.¹
- Enrollment of school-age children in Myanmar's secondary schools hovers at just over 50 percent, one of the lowest figures globally.²
- The Myanmar Ministry of Education has prioritized the use of ICT in classrooms to support the ongoing Comprehensive Education Sector Review initiative, and is currently the only ICT program for education in the country.

Solution

- Distribution of 3G-enabled laptops to teachers and Qualcomm-enabled tablets to students allow access to cloud-based, educational content and resources in the classroom. Classrooms in participating schools utilize a range of technologies.
- A professional development program for teachers focuses on the effective use of ICT-based resources to improve student learning, particularly in English Language, Life Skills and Mathematics.
- A comprehensive English Language program delivered via mobile technology fosters the development of skills to be successful in a knowledge-based global economy.
- Through the delivery of a life skills and empowerment program via tablets, girls improve their communication skills and build self-confidence.
- A scholarship program for impoverished girls enables them to stay in school and complete their secondary education.

*Sources: CIA World Factbook (<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>); Mobile penetration data provided by Ovum World Cellular Information Service and based on market intelligence.

Impact



Connecting 10,500 Impoverished Girls

The Connect To Learn program connects 31 schools to mobile broadband networks to improve the learning outcomes of 21,000 students in Myanmar, including 10,500 impoverished girls.



Cloud-based Education

The program provides the technical building blocks to enable accelerated access to cloud-based education content and collaboration systems.



Improved Teaching Quality

Teaching quality is expected to increase through effective use of ICT in improving teaching and learning and over 150 teachers will be trained.



Increased Employment Opportunities

Students will be able to improve numeracy and language literacy skills that can lead to increased employment opportunities.



Emphasis on Educating Girls

Female students from secondary schools will be empowered to communicate effectively about issues that are important to the community, including the importance of education for girls.

Technology

- Ericsson Mobile broadband connectivity via 3G/HSPA together with Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT).
- 3G-enabled laptops and Qualcomm-enabled tablets.
- An open source, cloud based education platform from Ericsson, that includes a cloud content management system that makes education content available on different types of devices, with the experience optimized for each device type.
- A real time managed cloud front end for Android Tablets from Finja Five that provides the educational applications in the tablets.
- Portable carts accommodate charging, secure storage and easy transport of tablets to classrooms.
- Universal Power Supply units provide a stable power supply for the ICT equipment.

Program Stakeholders

THE EARTH INSTITUTE
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



¹http://lirneasia.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/LIRNEasia_MyanmarBaselineSurvey_DescriptiveStats_V1.pdf

²http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/myanmar_statistics.html

Nov. 1, 2016

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