

For immediate release
CONTACT: Jackie Lewis
L3 Communications
L3@edc.org
0784187997

1000 netbooks and projectors are distributed for mentors

Kigali, Rwanda—Tuesday, January 14, 2014

To support high quality teacher training in English and teaching methods, 1000 netbooks and projectors are being distributed to senior and school-based mentors, thanks to the Rwanda Education Board (REB) and the USAID-funded Literacy, Language, and Learning (L3) Initiative. On Monday, January 13th, the five-week national distribution and training will begin in Kigali.

The netbook computers are loaded with videos, audio, and print materials. These will support school-based mentors in building teachers' English language skills and improving their teaching of literacy and numeracy skills. At the trainings, school-based mentors and head teachers will be oriented on caring for the netbook computers, and the mentors will learn about the resources and how to access them.

"The School-based Mentoring Program aims to improve the quality of education in Rwandan schools," said REB Director General Dr. John Rutayisire. "With these world-class, multimedia resources, we ensure that mentors have the tools they need to make that impact."

To improve teachers' English language skills, the netbook computers include a self-assessment tool and diagnostic test as part of a system called REPS—Rwanda English Proficiency Standards for teachers—as well as a resource pack to support learning for each level within this system. After training by senior mentors, school-based mentors will administer the diagnostic tests for teachers. Mentors will be able to use the appropriate resources to support teachers' language development.

Additionally, the netbooks include videos to train teachers in implementing the new nationwide early literacy and numeracy program. For the 2014 academic year, REB with the support of the L3 Initiative will distribute 6.8 million books as well as cell phones and speakers for broadcasting audio. These materials will support learner-centered, research-based lessons for English, Kinyarwanda, and mathematics.

“Supporting the professional development of Rwanda’s teachers and mentors is a key component of USAID’s broader efforts to improve the quality of education in Rwanda’s schools nationwide,” said USAID/Rwanda Mission Director, Peter Malnak. “Better equipped teachers can more effectively prepare their students for success. We believe these materials, which use a variety of innovative technologies, will enable educators to teach well in this increasingly digital age.”

School-based mentors will support teachers to ensure that the materials and methods of the program are used as intended. The training materials include videos of teacher demonstrations illustrating what the teaching methods look like in a classroom and how they impact student learning.

The L3 Initiative is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is implemented by the Education Development Center, Inc (EDC) with partners.

REB is the Government institution in charge of all activities which can fast track education development in Rwanda.

Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC), is a global nonprofit organization that creates learning opportunities for people around the world, empowering them to pursue healthier, more productive lives. EDC manages 250 projects in 30 countries. Visit www.edc.org.