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# The Computer Science Technology Project Hawa-Dembaya, Mali

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## BACKGROUND

In Mali, many school children and young adults lack computer skills. This has an impact on their level of education and ability to find work. There are very few training centers in Mali (Kayes region) which are either overbooked or not affordable for these children. In our CSR Community of Hawa Dembaya, a Malian institution had started an initiative by purchasing computer equipment which was not brought into operation.



Albatros Energy Mali analysed the flaws, implemented corrections and permanent funding to achieve a sustainable project.

## THE PROJECT

This project covers two of the four pillars of Albatros Energy Mali's CSR program: "Education" and job creation.

Fifteen computers, classroom furniture, two printers and an internet connection were already provided November 14th, 2018. An air conditioned training room could be established in one of the rooms of the historical Fort of Médine. Unfortunately, the computer room never became functional due to outstanding electricity bills, lack of funding for teachers and securing the financing of the ongoing costs (electricity, internet, teach, salary, etc.).

Albatros Energy Mali analysed the flaws of the project, consulted with the community and funded the outstanding bills, as well as the acquisition of a new prepaid electricity meter. Furthermore, Albatros recruited a computer science teacher who trained each 12th grade student in Microsoft Word, Excel and the use of the internet. This school year, 120 students will pass this training.



<b>Program starts</b>	<b>Classes session 1 October 2019</b>
<b>IT courses offered</b>	<b>Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, internet usage</b>
<b>Number of students</b>	<b>120 (school year 2019/2020)</b>
<b>Number of trainers</b>	<b>1</b>

# OBJECTIVES AND FUTURE PLANS

The objective of this training is to provide the students of the Hawa-Dembaya community with basic computer skills in order to enhance their level of education and finally better prepare them when accessing the job market. In addition, this center is also developed to be able to respond to additional requests related to computer science for the people of the municipality.



As a first step, Albatros would like to ensure a reliable continuation of the training of the final year class (Grade 12) in Hawa-Dembaya in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint as well as to add other grades in the future. Other groups of the community (women, artisans, etc.) could be added depending on funding.

Computer training is an effective long-term investment that helps to eradicate poverty by enhancing education and the opening of remote communities to worldwide information via the internet.



## THE CHALLENGE

- Getting existing computer equipment up and running
- Receiving support from the community to introduce new technology
- Provide ongoing financing for the operation of the computers and a salary for the teachers
- Lack of availability of qualified IT teachers/trainers in Hawa-Dembaya, teacher strikes



## THE SOLUTION

- Analyse why the existing computer equipment is not up and running
- Get support of the community (community meetings) that introducing new technology is a necessity
- Install technical facilities needed for computer classes (electricity meter, install computer room)
- Hire qualified computer science teacher for teaching children



## THE BENEFITS

- Having the community on-board increases the long-term success of program
- Enhancement of future employment opportunities for the students of Hawa-Dembaya
- Increasing success by students starting individual classes online