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Impact Report: Labdo Computer Donation

0. Introduction

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Dear Labdo Team,

Two years ago, in May 2022, the Labdoo Organization generously donated 30 computers to our organization, CINA to empower youth with computer skills, essential to advancing their careers and enterprises. We wanted to take this opportunity to share how profoundly your donation has impacted our programs and the communities we serve. Your support has been invaluable, and we are eager to express our gratitude through this brief report.

I. CINA Overview and Updates

Congo Innovation Academy (CINA) is a non-profit organization that empowers marginalized youth, with a special focus on people with disabilities and conflict-affected youth in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). CINA equips young people with personal development skills, entrepreneurial experience, and resources to become social entrepreneurs who lead positive change.

Since its official launch in 2021, CINA has made a tangible impact on the lives of 440 young individuals, directly empowering them to unlock their potential and evolve into social entrepreneurs catalyzing positive change. Notably, 31 projects born out of CINA have received funding ranging from \$500 to \$1,000, resulting in the establishment of 7 registered enterprises that are actively generating employment opportunities for previously unemployed youths. Additionally, 630 students have received computer and internet skills training from 2022 to date.

CINA has moved from the central town of Kinshasa to Maluku commune. Maluku is the largest and most rural commune in Kinshasa. The primary reason for this move is to extend our support to rural communities most affected by poverty. Additionally, CINA wanted to establish a larger learning space for its residential program. We have acquired 3 hectares of



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land in Maluku, where we are constructing our first training room using plastic bottle technology.

II. Labdoo Impact Highlights

1. Educational Programs

We have served 630 students from CINA and other schools in the community. These youths have received training in Microsoft Office, social media, email, Google Calendar, and internet research.

Initially, our goal was to empower CINA students in their journey as social entrepreneurs, as computer skills are essential for presenting business ideas, managing data, communication, and research. However, when we moved our office to Maluku Village, we realized that the local schools lacked computers for learning and practice. Schools approached us to request access to our computers for their students. As a result, every Saturday, students from two primary schools come to learn computer skills free of charge. This is how we unexpectedly reached 630 students over the past two years.

For instance, Flore TSHIBUABUA, a young woman from Maluku, testified:

"My name is Flore TSHIBUABUA. CINA helped me master computer skills, specializing in Excel. Now I can manage complex financial information using Excel. Thank you, CINA."

2. Operational Improvements

Labdo's support not only allowed us to train 630 students but also significantly improved our operations and staff empowerment. We now have 13 trainers and 8 volunteers who can use computers to prepare sessions, deliver presentations, write reports, and create graphic designs for the organization.

This improvement is evident in our engaging social media presence and our website.

- Communication: The computers also helped us improve our team communication, migrating from simple WhatsApp groups to using Slack, email, Google Meet, and Zoom calls, which has been effective and professional.

III. Challenges and Solutions

We have encountered two main challenges during the empowerment process:

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1. Insufficient Computers: Since we extended our support beyond marginalized youths to also include schools and some university students, we now face a shortage of computers. Currently, we have 55 permanent scholars at CINA and weekly receive 35 more students from schools. We only have 30 laptops, some of which are used by staff for organizational work. To address this, we are seeking additional support for 70 more computers from organizations like Labdoo and equivalent, so we can better serve our CINA students, schools, and community.

2. Electricity: In our new location in Maluku, we often face electricity challenges, having access to electricity only three days per week. This has threatened our work, and we have been relying on community members who generously allow us to charge our laptops with their generators. The good news is that starting in January 2025, this issue will be resolved as an organization from the USA has agreed to donate a solar panel system. This system will have the capacity to power over 120 computers permanently.

IV. Future Plans

As we have obtained 3 hectares of land in Maluku and are building the CINA training center, we plan to support schools lacking computers. Our first building on the new land is a training room with the capacity to host 100 students. We aim to expand our partnership from 2 to 4 schools in Maluku, supporting 100 students each week. These students will come from 4 different schools, with 25 students per school. This collaboration will help create networks among students and unify schools with CINA.

V. Acknowledgments

Your previous support has meant the world to CINA and the community. We would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Labdoo for their tremendous support. Thank you for continuing to help our community.

VI. Conclusion

In conclusion, the donation of 30 computers from Labdoo has had a transformative impact on our organization and the community. We have been able to empower hundreds of students with essential computer skills, improve our operational efficiency, and extend our reach to underserved rural areas. We are committed to sustaining and expanding these initiatives and look forward to continuing our partnership with Labdoo. Thank you for your invaluable support.

PICTURES











