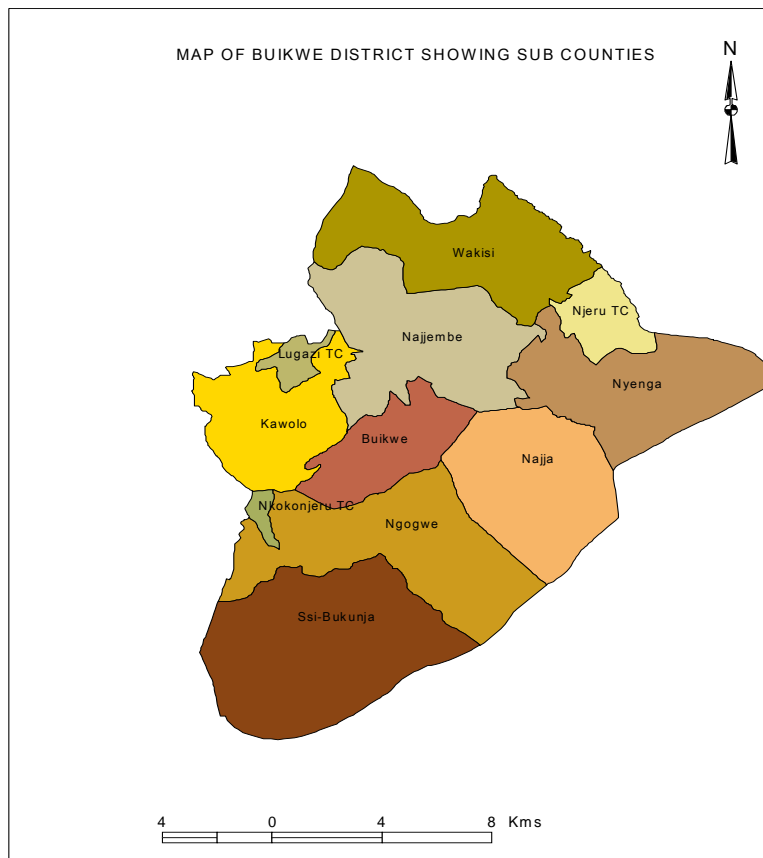


## Rural Communications Development Fund (RCDF)

# RCDF PROJECTS IN BUIKWE DISTRICT, UGANDA



## UCC Support through the RCDF Programme

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## **Table of Contents**

1- Foreword.....	3
2- Background.....	4
3- Introduction.....	4
4- Project profiles.....	5
5- Stakeholders’ responsibilities.....	12
6- Contacts.....	13

## **List of tables and maps**

1- Table showing number of RCDF projects in Buikwe district.....	5
2- Map of Uganda showing Buikwe district.....	14
10- Map of Buikwe district showing sub counties.....	15
11- Table showing the population of Buikwe district by sub counties.....	15
12- List of RCDF Projects in Buikwe district.....	16

## **Abbreviations/ Acronyms**

UCC	Uganda Communications Commission
RCDF	Rural Communications Development Fund
USF	Universal Service Fund
MCT	Multipurpose Community Tele-centre
PPDA	Public Procurement and Disposal Act of 2003
POP	Internet Points of Presence
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
UA	Universal Access
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoH	Ministry of Health
DHO	District Health Officer
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
RDC	Resident District Commissioner

## **1. Foreword**

ICTs are a key factor for socio-economic development. It is therefore vital that ICTs are made accessible to all people so as to make those people have an opportunity to contribute and benefit from the socio-economic development that ICTs create.

RCDF is a mechanism that UCC employs to leverage communications access to the hard-to-reach areas such as the rural areas which remain after operators and service providers have selected their preferred areas of operation. RCDF then causes the delivery in those areas, of communications services that are similar to those ordinarily delivered by operators and service providers.

To deliver communications services into rural underserved areas of Uganda, RCDF uses districts as the building blocks for a more equitable delivery. In order to enhance the sustainability of delivery of ICTs in underserved areas, RCDF forms strategic partnerships with the public and the private sector in districts. Delivery of ICT services through the RCDF programme involves several stakeholders that among others include the district local administration, area MPs, the RDCs, local government officials such as CAOs, ICT project implementers, and most importantly, the users.

Through the RCDF programme, ICT opportunities are made available to all the stakeholders in their respective settings. All stakeholders therefore ought to seize the opportunity by embracing and integrating the ICTs made available into their development programmes and activities. That way, the country and more specifically the rural underserved areas will achieve meaningful socio-economic development.

**Dr. Dorothy Okello**  
**Chairperson, RCDF Board**  
**Uganda Communications Commission**

**1<sup>st</sup> July, 2010**

## **1. Background**

The Uganda Communications Act of 1997 mandates UCC to establish and administer a Universal Service Fund (USF) for communications in Uganda. UCC thus establishes and administers a USF called the Rural Communications Development Fund (RCDF).

RCDF was created through its first RCDF Policy of 2001 whose actual implementation started in the year 2003. Under this Policy, the main goal of RCDF was to provide access to basic ICT to the rural and underserved communities of Uganda.

Following the realization of the goal of the RCDF Policy of 2001, and the changes in the external and internal environment of RCDF, a new policy the RCDF Policy of 2010 was adopted with its main goal being the enhancement of usage of ICT in the rural communities of Uganda.

RCDF projects are established in areas where no similar ICT facilities exist and such facilities are not expected to be established in those areas in the foreseeable future.

Districts are the main administrative blocks that the RCDF programme uses in order to ensure that the communication services provided are equitably distributed throughout the country.

## **2. Introduction**

The RCDF program seeks to provide sustainable access to ICT services to people in rural areas. The projects are strategically located in more populated centers with relatively more commercial activity to ensure that the projects are self sustaining.

A total of 40 ICT projects have been established in the district through the RCDF programme of UCC.

In conjunction with various project stakeholders, UCC/RCDF determines a specific location for each project. The population distribution within the district as shown in Table 2 is also a key determinant of the location of a project.

Like all other projects of RCDF, the ICT projects are established as partnerships between UCC and a private or public partner. UCC provides

technical support and partial funding. The ICT facilities are wholly owned by the private partner who is obliged to ensure that the facility is available for use at all times for a given period of time, of say, 5 years. By the end of this period it is expected that the facilities have developed capacity for self sustainability and other people are able to replicate them within the area in order to satisfy a bigger demand.

### 3. Projects Profile

In line with the RCDF policy provisions, RCDF projects in districts of Uganda have been implemented under the following program areas; Internet Points of Presence (POP), Public payphones, Research projects, Postal support projects, Multipurpose Community Tele - centers (MCT's), School ICT facilities, Health Care ICT facilities, and Call Centers.

The number of projects supported under each programme area is indicated in Table 1 shown below;

**NUMBER OF PROJECTS IN BUIKWE - SUMMARY**

STATUS	POPs	INTERNET CAFES	ICT TRAINING CENTRES	MCTs	PAY PHONES	WEB PORTALS	POSTAL PROJECTS	SCHOOLS ICT LABS	HEALTH ICT PROJECTS	GSM SITES	TOTAL PROJECTS
COMMISSIONED							1				1
UNDER INSTALLATION					1			5	1		7
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>

*Number and type of RCDF projects in Buikwe district*

#### a) Internet Points of Presence (POP)

The internet POPs provides a wireless connectivity network in a radius of about 5-10km around the POP. People within this area can access connectivity such as internet connectivity at costs, speeds and types of services that are comparable to those in the capital city Kampala.

Through a competitive bidding process, the Uganda Telecom Ltd won the tender for subsidy to set up POP in the district.



***A typical POP in Tororo town***

The POP is designed to provide a minimum combined speed of 480Kbps. However, with the advent of new technologies on the market, the combined speed and range of services provided keeps increasing.

All who wish to make use of the POP in the district need to contact Uganda Telecom Ltd. Through their own expansion programmes other operators also continue to establish their own POPs in various districts of the country. It may therefore be good to check all operators in order to make a comparison for a better deal.

The specific location of the RCDF supported POP in the district is as shown in the Annex.

### **b) Internet Cafes/ICT Training Centres**

This program provides public access to internet and ICT training services to people in the district.

Like all other projects of RCDF, the facilities are established as partnerships between UCC and a private or public partner.



***A typical ICT training centre/Internet café in Amuria town, Amuria district***

The ICT training centre/Internet café is made up of a minimum of 5 computers that are all connected to the internet. Services provided at the ICT training centre/Internet café are paid for at market competitive rates for the area. Other people in several other districts have replicated the internet cafes/ICT training centres and offer similar or better services. A user may therefore need to compare the services in all the cafes in the area for a better deal.

The specific locations of the RCDF supported ICT training centres and Internet cafe in the district are shown in the Annex

**c) District Web Portal**

UCC through the RCDF programme developed the district web portal and handed it over to the district local administration. The district web portal name is:

[www.buikwe.go.ug](http://www.buikwe.go.ug)

Common information provided by the district web portals include; the district overview, Health, Agriculture, Education, Government & Politics, Investment & trade, Tourism, Government Programs, Environment, SMS services,

Infrastructure, News and district Contacts,. The web portal also provides a translation in to a common language found in the district.

The web portal may also be used for generation of income to the district through activities such as renting out space to advertisers.

The district Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) is the official responsible for all issues regarding the management, annual fees, updating and uses of the web portal

#### **d) Public Pay phones**

The Public Pay phones take two main forms

- (i) The Standard type that is only limited to initiating calls
- (ii) A Community Information Center (CIC) which is used for both initiation and limited termination of calls.

The CIC also provides other basic services such as charging phones

A detailed list showing locations of public pay phones in the district is shown in the Annex.



***A typical public pay phone in Oyarotonge village, Pader village***

### **e) GSM Network Expansion Project**

UCC through the RCDF programme provided a subsidy to operators to establish a network to places that did not have voice network coverage in the district. Through a competitive bidding process, MTN (U) Ltd was awarded the subsidy and established wireless, voice communications sites in the district in areas shown in the Annex

### **f) School ICT Laboratories**

This is a program providing support to the Ministry of Education and Sports to increase access and usage of ICT in schools. Priority in this program has been made for government schools and training institutions. The program is comprised of 3 main projects.

- (i) A Project for establishment of ICT laboratories in schools
- (ii) A Project for providing Connectivity
- (iii) A Project for supporting Content delivery

Solar powered ICT laboratories have also been provided in areas that do not have access to the national grid electricity supply.

The program enables schools to among other things;

- Teach computer studies as a curriculum subject at O level
- Teach general purpose computer applications such as MS Office Packages aimed at providing computer literacy
- Access local learning resources such as UNEB past papers on web portals like [www.uderb.org](http://www.uderb.org)
- Access the Internet and use of e-mail services
- Use of computer based learning aides such as ENCARTA program to support the teaching and learning of conventional curriculum subjects.
- Access to other internet based e-learning resources.

The Ministry of Education and Sports has the oversight role for the school ICT laboratories and all their activities.



***A typical ICT laboratory at Mukono High School, Mukono district***

The specific names and locations of schools with RCDF supported ICT laboratories in the district are shown in the Annex

### **g) Health ICT Facilities**

This program provides support to the Ministry of Health to enhance usage of ICT in Health services delivery in the country. Through the programme, ICT facilities have been installed in selected government health facilities of the district as shown in the Annex.

The program enables health facilities and health practitioners to among other things access the following health related ICT services;

- Interlink all DHO's, Government Hospitals, 50 major Health Center IV facilities, and the Ministry of Health head quarters and referral hospitals.
- Access to the Ministry of Health web portal [www.health.go.ug](http://www.health.go.ug)
- e-continued medical education
- Access to online medical journals

- Access to selected e-libraries
- Support for e-consultation at the national & international level
- Support for e-Health Management Information Systems (HMIS)

Locations of the health facilities that have been supported through the RCDF programme are as shown in the Annex.

## **h) Postal Tele - centers & Postal Expansion Projects**

UCC through the RCDF program has established support to the postal sector for the establishment of 25 postal offices at the sub county levels and establishment of 20 postal Tele-centers in 20 districts across the country.

The specific locations of the postal facilities supported in the district are shown in the Annex

## **i) Multi Purpose Community Tele – Centers (MCT)**

Multi Purpose Community Tele – Centers provide a wider range of services than the ICT training centre and internet cafes. The typical additional services provided include video adult training programmes and sustainable rural business model demonstrations. MCTs are typically owned by sections of the community.

The specific locations of Multi Purpose Community Tele – Centers in the district are shown in the Annex

## **j) Governance Enhancement Program for Local Governments**

Under this program a fully installed computer is supplied to the office of

- (i) Each Resident District Commissioner’s Office (RDC’s) across the country.
- (ii) Each Member of Parliament

Through this program RDC’s & MP’s will have access to computer services that include;

- o Access to the Internet
- o Linkage with the Parent agency in Kampala (Presidents Office for RDC’s & Parliament for MP’s)
- o e-governance systems to enhance their monitoring capacity

The RDC programme is expected to be commissioned towards the end of the year 2010 and the MP's programme is expected to be commissioned towards the end of the year 2011.

The main objective of this programme is to enhance the capacity of RDCs and MPs in overseeing and monitoring public programmes in the district such as the RCDF projects.

### **k) Key Stakeholders' responsibilities**

The key stakeholders of UCC/RCDF are;

- Ministry of ICT,
- Primary project implementers in the case where a government Ministry is directly involved;
- Secondary project implementers who are the end user interface
- Local leadership.

The typical roles that each of the various stakeholder group plays are as shown in the table below:

MoICT	UCC/RCDF	Primary Implementer	Secondary Implementer	Local Leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICT Policy and associated guidelines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SET up ICT facilities</li> <li>• M&amp;E</li> <li>• Handover</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Software mgmt</li> <li>• Ownership, Overall control, and supervision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure, good rooms</li> <li>• Furniture</li> <li>• Optimal &amp; responsible usage</li> <li>• Operational budget</li> <li>• Growth and Expansion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversight by;</li> <li>• MPs</li> <li>• Local Administrations</li> <li>• Communities</li> <li>• RDCs</li> <li>• + ALL</li> </ul>

## **1) UCC/RCDF Contact**

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**Uganda Communications Commission (UCC)**

**Plot 42 -44, spring road, Bugolobi**

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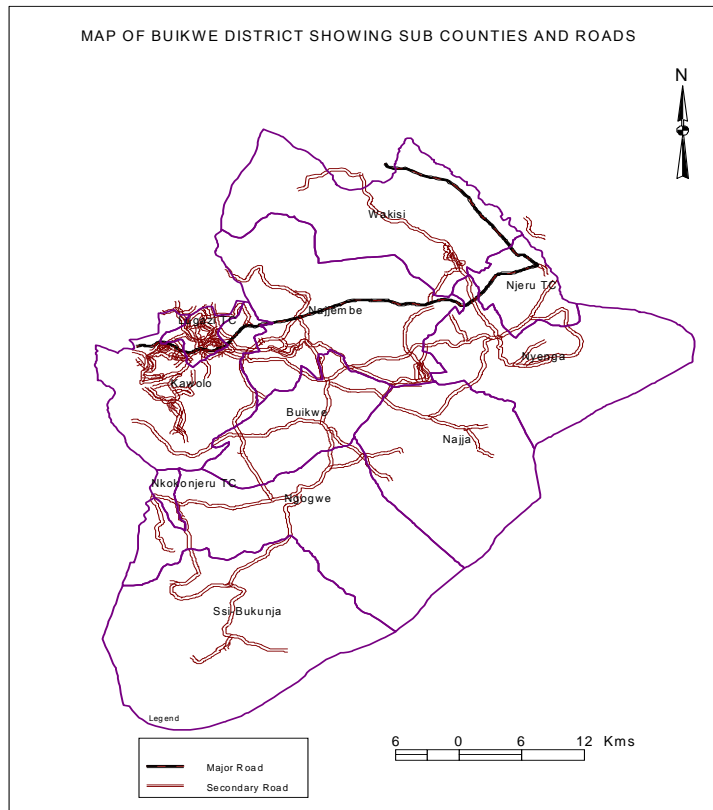
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### BUIKWE DISTRICT POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY SUB COUNTIES

District	2010				2011			
	Households	Population			Households	Population		
-		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total
<b>Buikwe</b>	<b>92,254</b>	<b>200,200</b>	<b>206,900</b>	<b>407,100</b>	<b>94,741</b>	<b>206,000</b>	<b>212,200</b>	<b>418,200</b>
Buikwe	7,624	16,800	17,700	34,500	7,848	17,200	18,400	35,600
Kawolo	9,386	19,600	19,100	38,700	9,632	20,300	19,500	39,800
Lugazi T.c.	8,797	16,600	17,900	34,500	9,055	17,100	18,400	35,500
Najja	8,236	18,100	19,900	38,000	8,456	18,600	20,500	39,100
Najjembe	8,149	17,200	16,400	33,600	8,371	17,700	16,800	34,500
Ngogwe	8,042	18,200	19,000	37,200	8,261	18,800	19,400	38,200
Njeru T.c.	14,283	30,900	32,300	63,200	14,673	31,800	33,100	64,900
Nkonkonjeru T.c.	2,671	6,600	7,100	13,700	2,731	6,800	7,200	14,000
Nyenga	10,092	23,500	24,200	47,700	10,371	24,200	24,800	49,000
Ssi Bukunja	5,848	12,400	12,300	24,700	5,992	12,700	12,600	25,300
Wakisi	9,126	20,300	21,000	41,300	9,351	20,800	21,500	42,300

## RCDF PROJECTS IN BUIKWE DISTRICT

S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
<b>Health ICT Facilities</b>								
S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
1	Buikwe West	Lugazi T.C	Kawolo Hospital	Ministry of Health	Contact <sup>1</sup>	Jun-09	operational	
<b>Public Pay Phones</b>								
S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
1	Buikwe South	Najja	Najja	Roam Communications Ltd	Contact <sup>2</sup>	Apr-09	Under Installation	
<b>Postal Telecentres</b>								
S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
1	Buikwe South	Ngongwe-Mukono	Ngongwe-Mukono	Posta Uganda	Contact <sup>3</sup>	Mar-04	Completed	
<b>School ICT Laboratories</b>								
S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
1	Buvuma	Nairambi	Lufu	Buvuma College	Contact <sup>4</sup>	Jul-10	operational	Solar powered
2	Buikwe South	Buikwe	Lweru	Lweru S.S	Contact <sup>4</sup>	Jul-10	operational	Grid power, N-computing
3	Buikwe North	Njeru T.C	Njeru West	Namwizi S.S	Contact <sup>4</sup>	Jul-10	operational	Grid power, standard
4	Buikwe North	Nyenga	Nyenga	Nyenga S.S Kigudu	Contact <sup>4</sup>	Jul-10	operational	Solar powered
5	Buikwe South	Nkokonjeru	Nkokonjeru	St Peters S.S Nkokonjeru	Contact <sup>4</sup>	Jul-10	operational	Grid power, N-computing

<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Health, Plot 6, Lourdel Road, P.O Box 7272 Kampala, Tel: 0414340882

<sup>2</sup> Rpm Communications Ltd, UMA Showgrounds, DDA Building, Lugogo, P.O Box 12852 Kampala, Tel: 0772713773

<sup>3</sup> Uganda Post Ltd, Plot 35 Kampala Road, P.O Box 7106 Kampala, Tel: 0414255530

<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Education & Sports, Embassy House, P.O Box 7063 Kampala, Tel: 041 233764