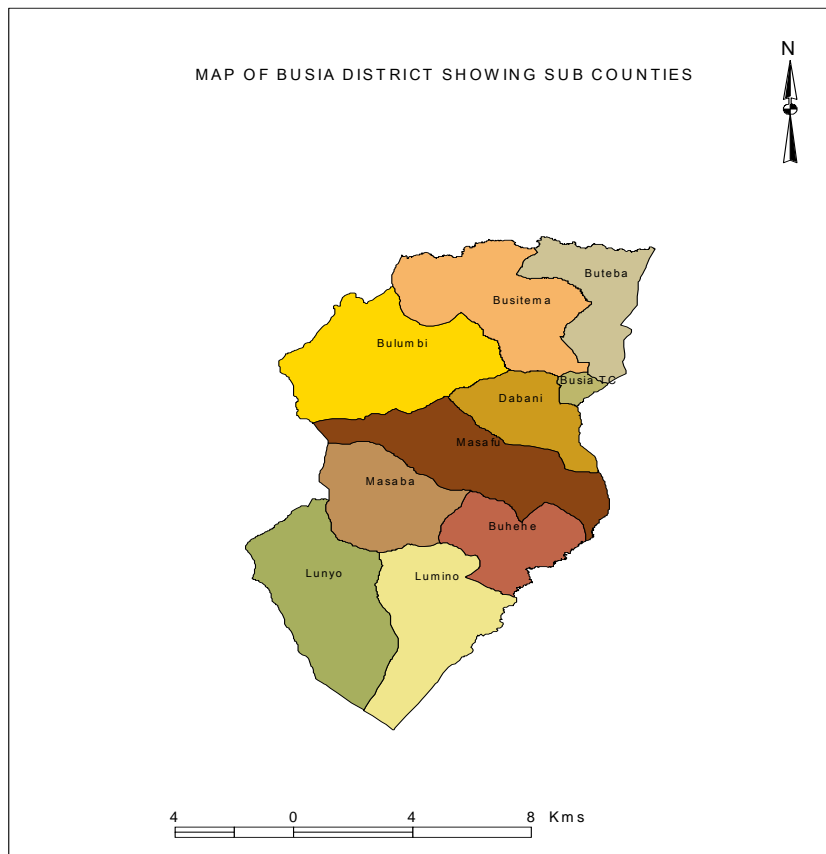


Rural Communications Development Fund (RCDF)

RCDF PROJECTS IN BUSIA DISTRICT, UGANDA



UCC Support through the RCDF Programme

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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 ICT 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 areas that they prefer to operate in. 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 the 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

1st 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 predicted 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 in order 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 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 BUSIA - 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	1	1		1	2	3	1		11
UNDER INSTALLATION								3	1		4
TOTALS	1	1	1	1	0	1	2	6	2	0	15

Number and type of RCDF projects in Busia 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 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 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.



An 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.busia.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, an 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 used is only limited to initiate calls
- (ii) A Community Information Center (CIC) which is used for both initiating and limited termination of calls.

The CIC also provides other basic services such as charging phones

A detailed list showing locations where public pay phones are found in the district is shown in the Annex.



A 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 for schools 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.underb.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.



An 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
- 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; the Ministry of ICT, the primary project implementer in the case where a sectoral Ministry is directly involved, the secondary project implementer who may be the end user interface and local leadership. The table below shows the various roles that each of the various stakeholder group plays.

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

1) UCC/RCDF Contact

Rural Communications Development Fund (RCDF)

Uganda Communications Commission (UCC)

Plot 42 -44, spring road, Bugolobi

P.O. Box 7376

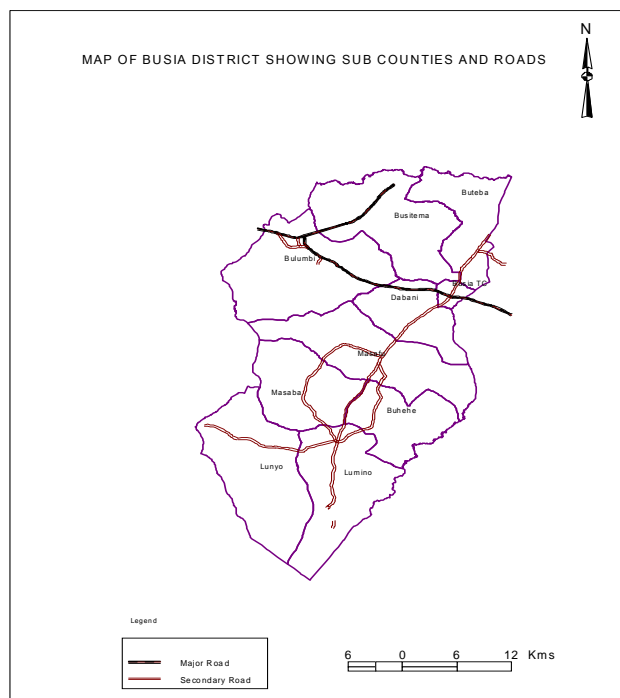
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BUSIA DISTRICT POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY SUB COUNTIES

District	2010				2011			
	Households	Population			Households	Population		
-		Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total
Busia	59,636	134,100	147,100	281,200	61,425	138,200	151,200	289,400
Buhehe	4,081	9,400	10,300	19,700	4,207	9,700	10,600	20,300
Bulumbi	5,708	13,800	14,900	28,700	5,869	14,200	15,300	29,500
Busia T.c.	11,652	21,200	24,500	45,700	12,014	21,900	25,200	47,100
Busitema	6,108	14,900	15,300	30,200	6,294	15,200	15,800	31,000
Buteba	4,485	10,600	11,500	22,100	4,608	10,900	11,800	22,700
Dabani	4,236	10,200	11,100	21,300	4,357	10,500	11,400	21,900
Lumino	5,426	11,900	13,200	25,100	5,601	12,300	13,600	25,900
Lunyo	6,027	14,200	15,500	29,700	6,212	14,700	15,900	30,600
Masaba	4,566	10,600	11,900	22,500	4,690	10,900	12,200	23,100
Masafu	7,346	17,300	18,900	36,200	7,573	17,900	19,400	37,300

RCDF PROJECTS IN BUSIA DISTRICT

S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
Internet Cafes								
S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
1	Samia Bugwe North	Busia T.C	Customs Road-Busia T.C	Nile Computers	Contact ¹	Sep-05	Operational	
Health ICT Facilities								
S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
1	Samia Bugwe North	Busia T.C	District Health Office	Ministry of Health	Contact ²	Feb-08	Operational	Internet connectivity is out of service
2	Samia Bugwe North	Dabani	Dabani	Dabani	Contact ²	Jul-10	Under Installation	Solar powered
ICT Training Centres								
S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
1	Samia Bugwe North	Busia T.C	Customs Road-Busia T.C	Nile Computers	Contact ¹	Sep-05	Operational	
Multi-Purpose Community Telecentres								
S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
1	Samia Bugwe North	Busia T.C	Busia T.C	Busia District Farmers Association	Contact ³	May-08	Operational	
Postal Telecentres								
S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
1	Samia Bugwe South	Lumino	Lumino-Busia	Posta Uganda	Contact ⁴	Mar-04	Completed	
2	Samia Bugwe North	Busia T.C	Busia post office	Posta Uganda	Contact ⁴	Mar-07	Operational	Grid power
School ICT Laboratories								
S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
1	Samia Bugwe North	Bulumbi	Buwembe Parish	Buwembe S.S.	Contact ⁵	Feb-08	Operational	Generator powered, standard
2	Samia Bugwe	Dabani	Dabani Parish	Dabani Girls	Contact ⁵	Apr-09	Operational	Solar powered

S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
	North			School				
3	Samia Bugwe North	Busia T.C	Busia T.C	Busia S.S.	Contact ⁵	Apr-09	Operational	Grid power, N-computing
4	Samia Bugwe North	Bulumbi	Bubango	Buhobe S.S	Contact ⁵	Jul-10	operational	Grid power, N-computing
5	Samia Bugwe South	Lunyo	Lunyo	Lunyo Hill S.S	Contact ⁵	Jul-10	operational	Grid power, N-computing
6	Samia Bugwe South	Masaba	Masaba	Masaba College Busia	Contact ⁵	Jul-10	operational	Grid power, N-computing

District Web Portals

S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
1	Samia Bugwe North	Busia T.C	www.busia.go.ug	Uganda Home Pages	Contact ⁶	Feb-03	Completed	Out of service

Internet Points of Presence (POP)

S/N	County	Sub County	Parish	Implementer	Contact Details	Start date	Status	Remarks
1	Samia Bugwe North	Busia T.C	Busia T.C	Uganda telecom	Contact ⁷	Feb-03	Completed	

¹ Nile Computers, P.O Box 1756 Kampala, tel: 0712692706, info@nilecomputers.co.ug

² Ministry of Health, Plot 6, Lourdel Road, P.O Box 7272 Kampala, Tel: 0414340887

³ Busia District Farmers Association Local Government Headquarters

⁴ Uganda Post Ltd, Plot 35 Kampala Road, P.O Box 7106 Kampala, Tel: 0414255516

⁵ Ministry of Education & Sports, Embassy House, P.O Box 7063 Kampala, Tel: 041 233765

⁶ Uganda Home Pages, P.O Box 7482 Kampala. Tel. 0414503006

⁷ Uganda Telecom, Rwenzori Courts, Plot 2 & 4A, Nakasero Road, P.O box 7171 Kampala, Tel: 0414333450