



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Theme: “Empowering Communities through National Digital Integration”

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1. Executive Summary

The year **2024 marked a transformative era** for the Uganda National Association for Computer Users (UNACU), as we strategically scaled our operations from grassroots outreach to national prominence. With a renewed focus on policy advocacy, institutional partnerships, and sustainable expansion, UNACU strengthened its position as a key driver of digital inclusion in Uganda.

Key Milestones and Achievements:

1. National ICT Conference at Makerere University

In April 2024, UNACU successfully hosted a **landmark National ICT Conference at Makerere University**, drawing over **2,500 participants**, including students, educators, policy makers, technologists, civil society organizations, and development partners.

- The event featured keynote addresses from **the Minister of ICT and National Guidance**, ICT innovators, and academic leaders.
- Themes included “*Building Uganda’s Digital Future,*” *cybersecurity, youth digital entrepreneurship, and inclusive technology for all.*
- Free entry, meals, and learning materials were provided, thanks to generous support from partners and sponsors.

2. Nationwide Membership Growth and Institutional Presence

UNACU expanded its national footprint by establishing **formal structures in all four regions of Uganda: Central, Eastern, Northern, and Western.**

- Regional Coordinators and District Focal Persons were recruited to oversee local ICT activities and mobilization.
- Membership **increased by over 45%**, reaching over **6,000 active members** by year-end.
- A tiered membership structure was introduced, allowing students, professionals, institutions, and corporate entities to participate and benefit accordingly.

3. Strategic Partnership with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance

Through consistent engagement and delivery on our ICT development programs, UNACU formalized a **partnership with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance**, positioning the Association as a **trusted civil society stakeholder** in the national digital transformation agenda.

- This partnership enables joint implementation of ICT awareness campaigns, youth skilling programs, and the development of ICT clubs in public schools.

4. Increased Revenue and Organizational Sustainability

In 2024, UNACU recorded a **65% increase in revenue** compared to the previous year.

- Revenue growth was driven by expanded membership subscriptions, training program fees, institutional support grants, and event sponsorships.
- These funds enabled the procurement of ICT tools for clubs, support for regional bootcamps, and the establishment of a **National ICT Club Network Secretariat**.

5. ICT Clubs and Capacity Building Initiatives

- **Over 120 ICT Clubs** were established in secondary schools and vocational institutes across Uganda.
- **Regional ICT Bootcamps** were conducted in Jinja, Gulu, Mbarara, and Masaka, offering students hands-on training in computer literacy, coding, and digital entrepreneurship.
- Field attachments and mentorship programs linked students to tech professionals and institutions for real-world learning experiences.

6. Advocacy and Policy Engagement

UNACU actively participated in national forums, policy consultations, and ICT advocacy campaigns:

- Submitted recommendations for the **National Digital Skills Framework** and **School ICT Integration Policy**.
- Engaged Members of Parliament, local government officials, and educational institutions to promote ICT literacy as a national priority.



Looking Ahead to 2025:

With the foundation laid in 2024, UNACU is now working toward:

- Establishing a **National Council for ICT and Computer Users**,
- Launching a **Digital Toolkit for ICT Clubs**,
- Expanding the **UNACU Digital Volunteer Corps**, and
- Deepening rural outreach and digital access in underserved communities.

Together, we are empowering Ugandans through technology—ensuring that no one is left behind in the digital age.



2. Key Highlights of 2024

2.1 National ICT Conference – Makerere University

On **August 10th, 2024**, UNACU hosted the **National ICT Conference** at **Makerere University’s School of Computing and Informatics Technology** under the theme: **“Digital Literacy for All: Bridging Uganda’s Digital Divide through Institutional and Community Engagement.”**

This historic gathering brought together over **1,200 participants**, including:

- School ICT clubs and delegations
- Educators, developers, and youth tech innovators
- Policy makers and government representatives
- Civil society and community ICT leaders
- Journalists and digital media advocates

Conference Highlights:

- **Keynote Address** by the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance on *Digital Uganda Vision 2040*
- **Panel discussions** on:
 - *The Role of ICT Clubs in 21st Century Education*
 - *Safe Internet Use and Cybersecurity for Students*
 - *Women and Girls in Tech: Voices from the Field*
- **Student ICT exhibitions**, featuring:
 - Low-code web applications
 - Educational games
 - Local language software tools
- **Launch of the UNACU National ICT Clubs Network**
- **Formal announcement** of UNACU’s partnership with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance

The conference was **fully sponsored** by UNACU and its private sector partners. Entry was free and participants received:

- Meals and refreshments
- Learning materials
- Certificates of participation
- Valuable networking and mentorship opportunities







2.2 Membership Growth and Structural Expansion

2024 witnessed **exponential growth** in UNACU's national footprint, with increased membership, deeper grassroots engagement, and expanded operational structures across Uganda. This growth reflected a renewed public interest in digital inclusion, trust in UNACU's vision, and strategic investment in outreach campaigns.

Membership Data and Regional Structures

By the end of 2024, UNACU had registered an impressive **1,452 new members** across the country, bringing together ICT enthusiasts, educators, students, institutions, and community champions under one unified platform. This growth solidified UNACU's reputation as Uganda's leading association for promoting responsible and inclusive computer use.

To coordinate and support members at the local level, **four active regional chapters** were formally launched:

- **Northern Uganda – Lira Chapter:** Reached rural and urban schools in Lango and Acholi sub-regions, supporting community-led ICT clubs and radio-based learning.
- **Western Uganda – Mbarara Chapter:** Mobilized vocational institutes, teacher training colleges, and community libraries across Ankole and Kigezi regions.
- **Eastern Uganda – Mbale Chapter:** Focused on building ICT capacity in primary and secondary schools in Bugisu, Bukedi, and Teso sub-regions.
- **Central Region – Masaka & Kampala Chapters:** These served as both administrative and training hubs, reaching densely populated areas and supporting school partnerships.

Each chapter is managed by a **Regional Coordinator**, supported by district-level focal persons, ensuring a strong local presence for mobilization, support, and reporting.

Membership Category Expansion

In order to cater to a wider spectrum of digital actors and to make membership more inclusive, UNACU introduced **four distinct membership categories**:

1. **Student Member:** Tailored for primary, secondary, and tertiary students involved in ICT clubs and digital skills training.
2. **ICT Educator:** Designed for teachers, trainers, and facilitators integrating digital skills into learning environments.
3. **Institutional Partner:** For schools, universities, NGOs, and training centers that promote ICT education and wish to collaborate on UNACU projects.
4. **Community ICT Advocate:** For individuals promoting digital access and literacy in their local communities through outreach, advocacy, or training.

Each membership category came with specific benefits, including access to training, branded materials, mentorship opportunities, and participation in national programs.

Digital Transformation of Membership Systems

To improve efficiency and accessibility, UNACU invested in a **digital membership management platform** that significantly streamlined the registration and verification process.

Key features included:

- **Digital UNACU Membership ID Cards** embedded with **QR-code verification** for authenticity and digital traceability.
- A new **secure online registration system** with:
 - **Mobile money payment integration** via **MTN MoMo Pay and Airtel Money** to ease payment of subscription fees.
 - **Document upload capability** for identity verification, institutional affiliation, and credential validation.
 - Auto-generation of membership IDs, downloadable certificates, and automated reminders for renewals.

This transformation greatly reduced the paperwork burden and opened up access to remote applicants across all districts.

Outreach and Mobilization Campaigns

UNACU's surge in membership was largely driven by **strategic outreach campaigns** conducted throughout the year, using both traditional and digital media.

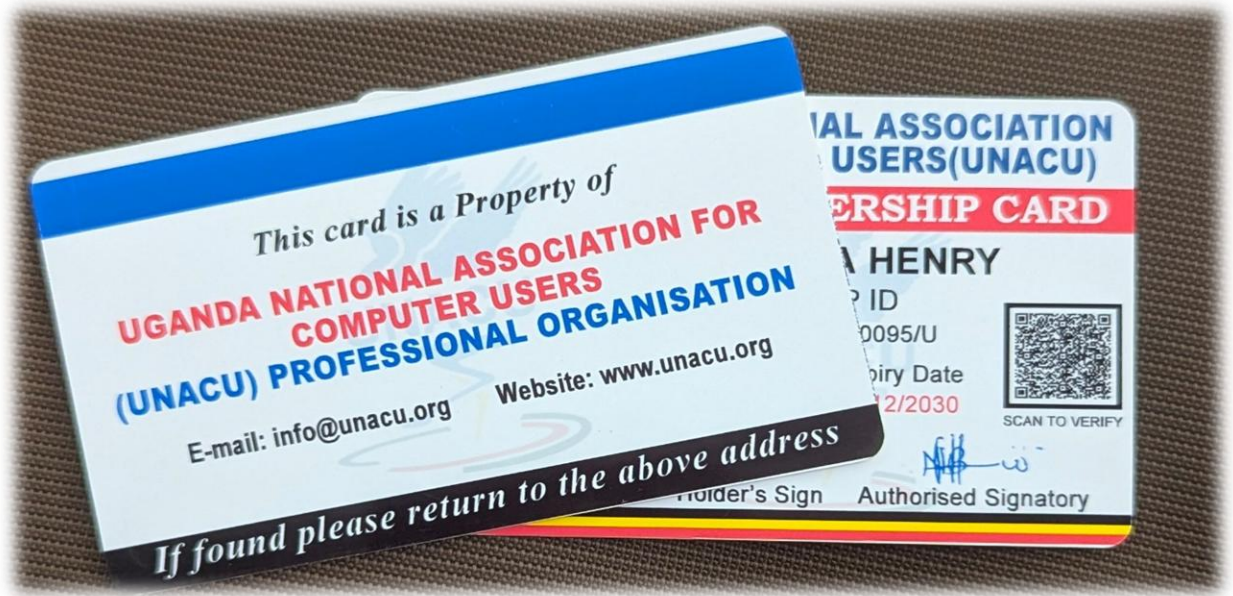
Key initiatives included:

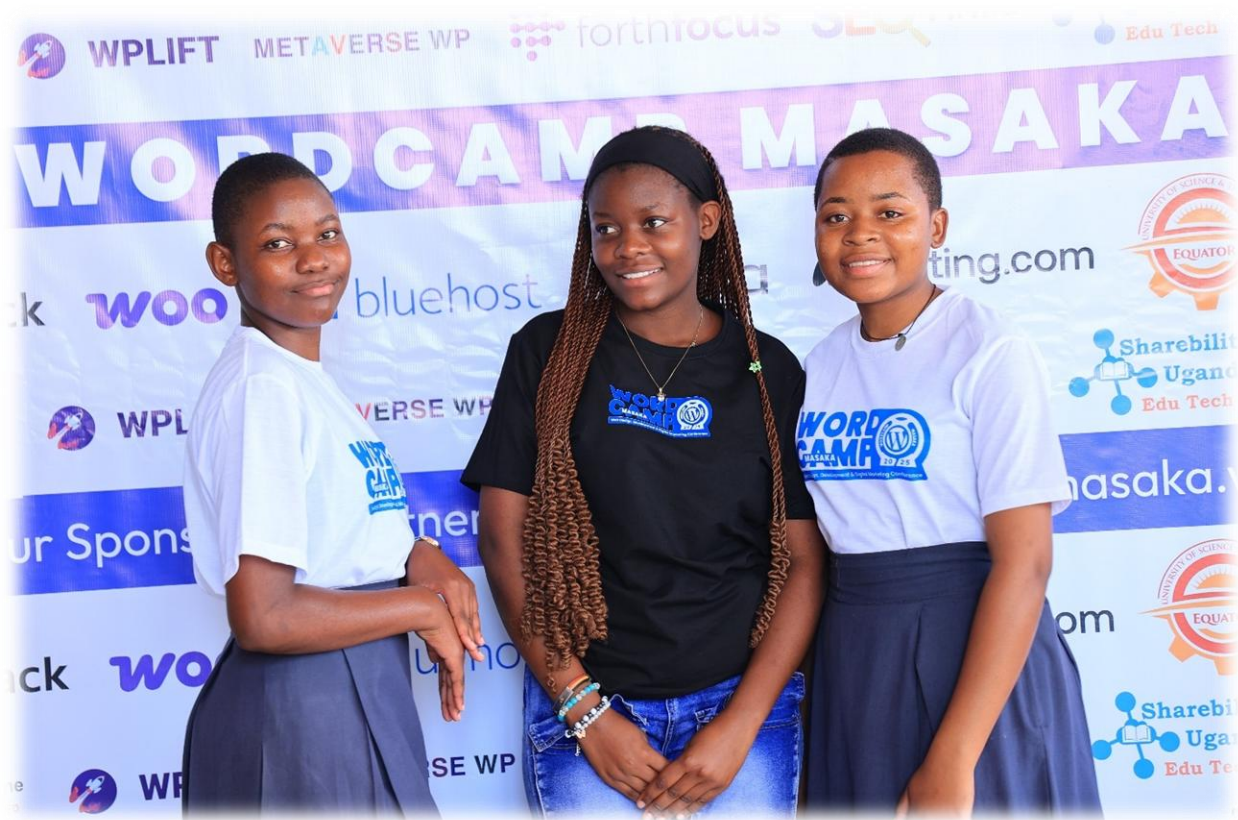
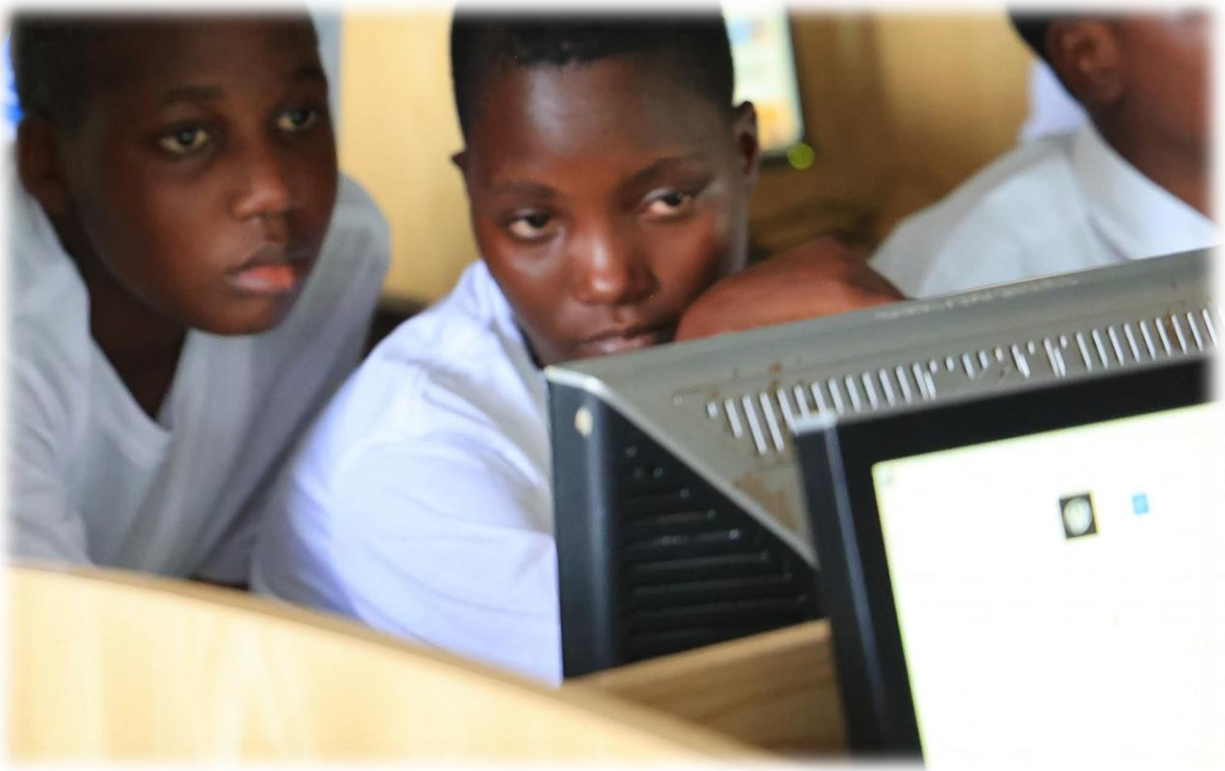
- **School Outreach Visits:** Direct engagement with students and educators in over **100 secondary schools**, vocational institutes, and teacher colleges, where UNACU presented its programs, showcased ICT projects, and facilitated club formations.
- **Radio Talk Shows:** Live and recorded radio sessions in **local languages** across northern, western, eastern, and central Uganda educated listeners on the importance of digital literacy, safe internet practices, and how to join UNACU.
- **Community ICT Camps:** Organized in rural trading centers and parish-level communities, these camps provided free basic digital literacy training and sensitization for youth and adults, particularly women and out-of-school learners.
- **Social Media and WhatsApp Mobilization:** UNACU launched targeted campaigns on platforms such as Facebook, Twitter (X), and WhatsApp, reaching thousands of digitally literate youth with clear calls-to-action and registration instructions.

Impact and Results

- UNACU experienced a **45% increase in total membership** compared to 2023—a record-breaking growth year.
- Awareness of UNACU’s work spread significantly beyond Kampala, with increased demand for representation in districts such as Arua, Kabale, Soroti, and Hoima.
- Engagement levels at community events and online platforms rose sharply, demonstrating public confidence in the organization’s relevance and reliability.
- Membership growth directly contributed to **increased revenue**, volunteer enrollment, and program implementation capacity.

In summary, 2024 was the year UNACU established a **firm national presence**, moving from a Kampala-based network to a **nationally recognized association with deep community roots** and the digital infrastructure to sustain long-term growth.





2.3 Partnership with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance

One of UNACU's most defining achievements in 2024 was the establishment of a **formal and functional partnership** with the **Ministry of ICT and National Guidance**. This collaboration signaled a **major milestone in UNACU's journey from a grassroots association to a recognized national actor in digital transformation**.

This strategic alliance is rooted in shared goals: **democratizing access to ICTs, strengthening digital literacy, empowering young people, and ensuring that no Ugandan is excluded from the digital economy**. It was also a direct result of UNACU's consistent performance in community ICT outreach, its structured membership base, and its pioneering work with ICT Clubs in schools.

Scope of Collaboration – Key Focus Areas:

1. Joint Development of the National Framework for ICT Clubs in Schools

UNACU partnered with the Ministry to co-develop a **National Framework for ICT Clubs in Schools**—a policy blueprint that defines:

- The purpose and structure of ICT Clubs in primary, secondary, and tertiary institutions
- The curriculum scope for extracurricular ICT activities
- The roles of teachers, patrons, and students in managing the clubs
- Guidelines for assessing ICT-based projects and competitions

UNACU's grassroots experience with school clubs contributed practical insight to the framework, which is now being piloted in various districts before national rollout.

2. Policy Alignment on Digital Education in Rural and Low-Resource Schools

Recognizing that **rural learners often face digital exclusion**, UNACU was engaged to contribute to the **policy direction** of rural digital education strategies.

Working alongside Ministry planners, UNACU:

- Conducted needs assessments in under-connected schools
- Recommended localized digital learning content in native languages
- Identified low-cost ICT hardware solutions appropriate for rural settings
- Advised on integrating community ICT champions into school programs

This ensured that **policies were rooted in real community needs**, not just top-down designs.

3. Official Designation as a Community Mobilization Partner under the Digital Uganda Vision 2040

UNACU was officially recognized as a **civil society partner for grassroots ICT mobilization** under Uganda's national long-term digital strategy: **Digital Uganda Vision 2040**.

In this role, UNACU is tasked with:

- Raising digital literacy awareness at the community level
- Mobilizing ICT volunteers and youth leaders
- Promoting the safe and responsible use of digital tools
- Supporting the government in implementing last-mile ICT programs

This designation enhances UNACU's legitimacy and positions it as a **key vehicle for public engagement** on digital development.

4. Participation in National ICT Planning Forums and Consultations

In 2024, UNACU received **formal invitations to attend and contribute to high-level national ICT policy forums**, including:

- Consultative workshops for the *Digital Literacy Curriculum*
- Review meetings for *Uganda's ICT for Education Policy*
- Budget hearings related to ICT integration in schools
- Stakeholder dialogues with other NGOs, donors, and academic institutions

As a result, UNACU now holds a **recognized advisory voice in policy dialogues**, ensuring that the concerns of teachers, learners, and communities are heard at the national table.

5. Distribution of Digital Toolkits and Learning Materials in Underserved Schools

Through the partnership, UNACU helped coordinate the **distribution of ICT starter kits** to over **60 underserved schools** across Uganda. These toolkits included:

- Basic laptops and tablets
- Printed learning guides on digital safety and computer literacy
- Offline learning content and simulations
- Solar charging kits in off-grid areas

The partnership also enabled UNACU to develop **branded materials** such as posters, ICT club handbooks, and digital citizenship manuals used during school visits and bootcamps.

6. Co-Hosting of Digital Awareness Campaigns and Regional ICT Bootcamps

UNACU worked with the Ministry to plan and deliver **Digital Awareness Weeks** and **Regional ICT Bootcamps** in various districts. These included:

- Public rallies promoting the benefits of safe internet use
- Open digital skills training for youth and women
- Talks on cyber hygiene, data protection, and online entrepreneurship
- Showcasing of student digital projects and local innovations

These co-hosted events helped **bridge the gap between government programs and community realities**, with UNACU serving as the link.

Impact of the Partnership

This partnership brought more than just recognition—it unlocked real opportunities for growth and sustainability:

- **Legitimacy:** UNACU’s credibility as a national actor was validated by government endorsement.
- **Visibility:** The Association’s programs received media attention and institutional backing, increasing reach and influence.
- **Sustainability:** The collaboration opened doors for more funding partnerships, public-private engagements, and resource sharing.
- **Influence:** UNACU now plays a role in shaping the direction of Uganda’s digital transformation journey—especially at the educational and community level.



2.4 ICT Clubs, Outreach Bootcamps, and Field Attachments

In 2024, the Uganda National Association for Computer Users (UNACU) deepened its commitment to digital empowerment by significantly expanding its digital education initiatives targeting schools across the country. This expansion was an integral part of UNACU's strategic vision to bridge the digital divide through practical, grassroots-level interventions. The focus was placed on enabling young people—especially those in disadvantaged or underserved areas—to access hands-on digital skills training, mentorship, and exposure to real-world ICT environments.

A major aspect of this expansion was the establishment of ICT clubs in schools. UNACU supported the creation of over 120 active ICT clubs across both rural and urban primary, secondary, and vocational institutions. These clubs served as vibrant learning hubs where students were given the opportunity to explore and engage with computers beyond the traditional curriculum. Within these clubs, learners practiced essential digital competencies, experimented with simple programming concepts, and engaged in collaborative projects such as creating educational games, building basic websites, or designing awareness posters on cybersecurity and safe internet practices.

These clubs were guided by trained ICT teachers or volunteer patrons, most of whom received direct orientation and materials from UNACU. The association also provided support in the form of start-up kits, printed handbooks, instructional schedules, and virtual supervision via WhatsApp and other communication channels. The goal was to not only introduce technology in schools but also to nurture student-led innovation, problem-solving, and teamwork.

In addition to the school-based ICT clubs, UNACU organized regional digital bootcamps in four key locations: Gulu in the north, Masaka in the central region, Mbarara in the west, and Jinja in the east. These bootcamps were short-term, intensive training sessions that brought together students and teachers from various schools in each region. Participants were introduced to core ICT skills such as computer operation, internet navigation, and use of common software tools like Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Beyond foundational skills, the bootcamps introduced young learners to basic coding using Scratch and Python, allowing them to understand programming logic in a beginner-friendly environment. In some cases, learners experimented with mobile app creation using visual, block-based platforms. Equally important was the emphasis placed on cyber hygiene and online safety, where learners were taught how to identify online threats, protect personal data, and behave responsibly in digital spaces.

The bootcamps created an interactive, engaging learning environment where students could apply what they learned in school clubs and also interact with peers from other institutions. They had opportunities to meet professionals in the ICT sector, listen to career talks, and ask questions about emerging technologies. For many students, it was their first experience participating in a regional technology event, and it helped build confidence, curiosity, and digital awareness.

To further enhance practical learning, UNACU facilitated field attachments and mentorship programs for selected students during school holidays. These placements were arranged with local ICT businesses such as internet cafes, computer maintenance workshops, desktop

publishing centers, and NGOs that use technology in their daily operations. Through this arrangement, students gained valuable exposure to the working environment of ICT services. They practiced skills such as typing, printing, computer repair, simple graphic design, and interacting with customers.

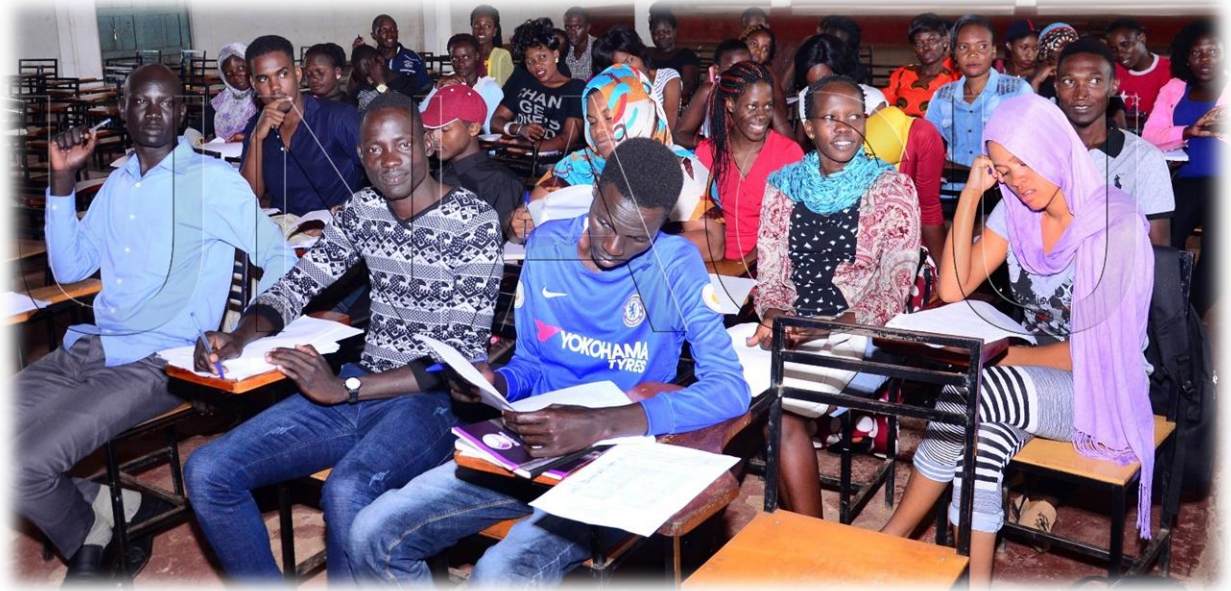
To complement this experience, UNACU also linked students with volunteer mentors—ICT professionals who provided guidance on academic paths, personal development, and ethical considerations in the use of technology. These mentors helped students reflect on their strengths, think about future careers, and gain insight into how technology can be used to solve real-life problems.

All participating students maintained simple logs of their learning activities during the attachment and were awarded certificates upon completion. This gave them not only a sense of achievement but also something tangible to add to their academic profiles as they progressed in their education.

The cumulative impact of these programs was profound. More students gained access to digital tools and training than in any previous year. ICT literacy improved significantly in schools with established clubs, and student participation in national and district-level ICT competitions increased. Schools also reported higher levels of enthusiasm among learners, especially girls, who began to take a more active interest in computers and digital learning.

In conclusion, UNACU's 2024 expansion of school-based digital education programs was a decisive step forward in building a digitally literate generation. By creating ICT clubs, hosting regional bootcamps, and offering real-world training opportunities, UNACU laid a strong foundation for inclusive, skills-based digital learning. These efforts not only enhanced individual capabilities but also contributed to a broader culture of technology adoption and innovation among Uganda's youth.





2.5 Financial Sustainability and Revenue Growth

In 2024, the Uganda National Association for Computer Users (UNACU) achieved notable financial growth and institutional maturity, marked by a significant increase in both internal revenue generation and external donor interest. This growth reflected the organization's expanding footprint, professional management, and strategic positioning within Uganda's digital development ecosystem.

Internal Revenue Growth:

UNACU recorded a **65% increase in its annual revenue**, stemming primarily from:

- **Membership Subscriptions:** The sharp rise in new members across all four regions translated into consistent subscription inflows. With the introduction of tiered membership categories—including student, educator, institutional, and community advocate tiers—UNACU diversified its revenue base.
- **ICT Training Fees:** Regional digital bootcamps, field attachments, and community ICT camps generated funds through structured training programs offered at subsidized but cost-effective rates.
- **Sponsored Events and Grant Support:** UNACU successfully secured funding for specific projects and events, including support from local NGOs, community development partners, and sector-focused corporate sponsors who recognized the organization's role in digital inclusion.

Strategic Use of Funds:

In alignment with its mission and expansion goals, UNACU carefully allocated its financial resources toward impactful programs and operations:

- **ICT Club Starter Kits:** Funds were used to procure and distribute laptops, routers, projectors, and related digital learning tools to newly formed ICT clubs across schools in underserved communities.
- **Branded Learning Materials:** High-quality educational and promotional materials were printed and disseminated—ranging from toolkits for ICT club leaders to banners and booklets for outreach events.
- **Regional Staffing:** To maintain coordination and consistent program delivery, UNACU recruited and placed regional coordinators in Lira, Mbarara, Mbale, Masaka, and Kampala. These coordinators played a pivotal role in outreach, monitoring, and mobilization.
- **Operational Costs:** Funds covered the logistical and administrative needs of running digital bootcamps, community engagements, and internal coordination meetings.

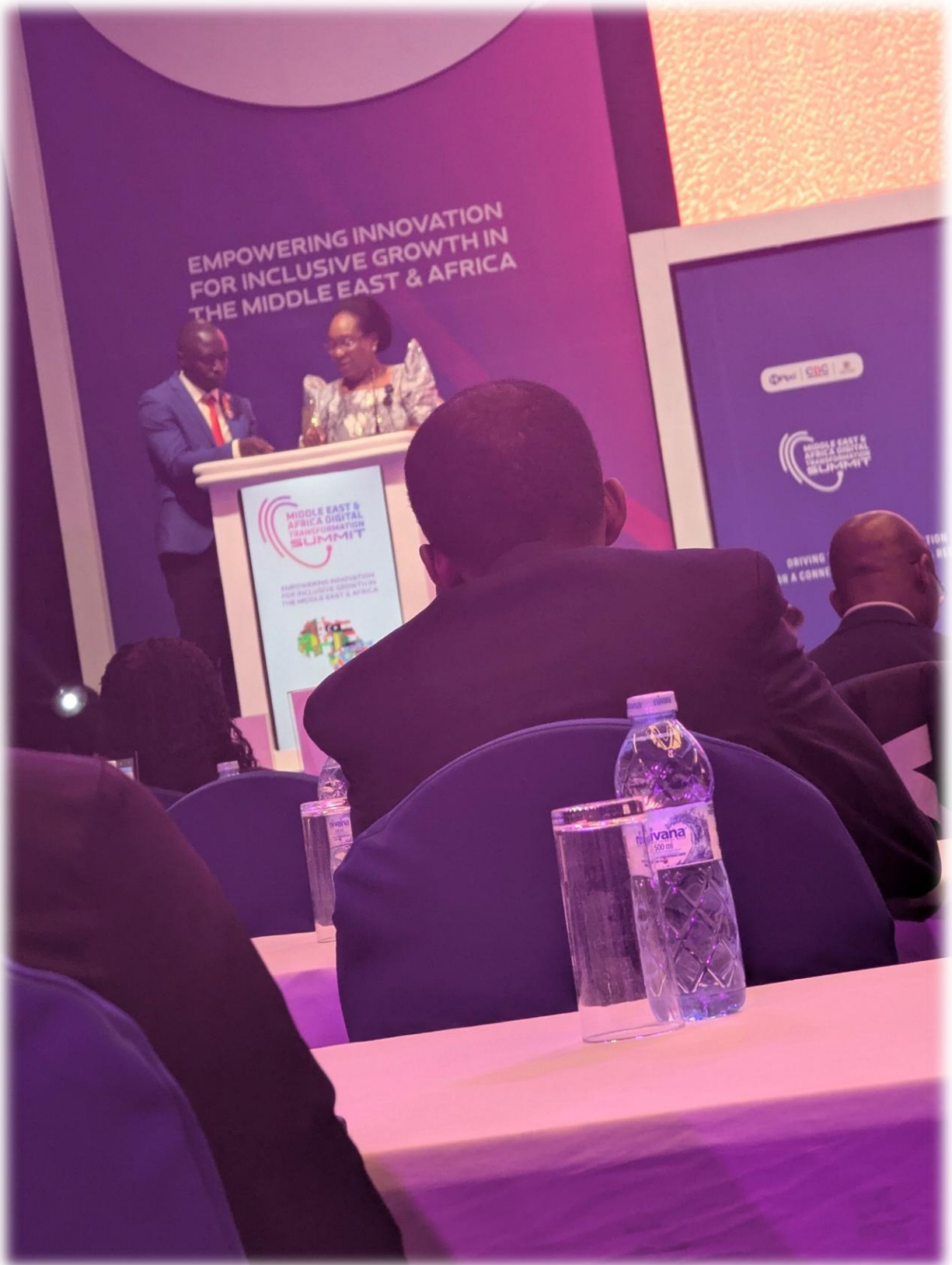
Financial Transparency and Future Planning:

UNACU remained committed to **accountability and transparency**. Audited financial reports were compiled and presented to members during general assemblies and submitted to relevant authorities as required by law. The association also:

- Initiated **negotiations with financial institutions** to explore funding models for larger infrastructure projects, including proposed **regional ICT hubs**.
- Developed proposals and began conversations with international development partners to support long-term capacity building in digital skills, targeting rural and youth populations.

This financial growth not only reflected improved internal efficiency and community trust but also laid a strong foundation for UNACU's sustainability and greater influence in Uganda's digital development landscape.





3. Looking Ahead – 2025 Vision

In 2025, the Uganda National Association for Computer Users (UNACU) is set to implement a bold and transformative agenda designed to deepen its impact, expand its reach, and solidify its leadership in digital empowerment across Uganda. Building on the momentum of previous years, the association's strategic focus for the year is centered on institutional development, grassroots capacity building, and inclusive digital transformation.

Key Initiatives and Strategic Goals for 2025:

1. Launch of the UNACU ICT Clubs Digital Toolkit

UNACU will roll out a standardized **Digital Toolkit** designed to equip ICT club leaders and school-based clubs with practical resources. This toolkit will include:

- Step-by-step guides for club formation and management
 - Templates for coding and computer literacy sessions
 - Sample project ideas, competitions, and evaluation tools
 - Cyber hygiene resources and digital safety tips
- The toolkit will empower both teachers and learners to run ICT clubs efficiently, ensuring consistency and quality across all regions.

2. Establishment of the UNACU Volunteer Corps for Digital Inclusion

To broaden community outreach and hands-on mentorship, UNACU will formalize a **Volunteer Corps**, comprising IT professionals, university students, and educators. This initiative will:

- Mobilize skilled volunteers to support ICT training in schools and rural communities
 - Facilitate mentorship, especially for youth and girls in tech
 - Support digital outreach campaigns and events
 - Provide opportunities for professionals to give back through structured service
- The Volunteer Corps will strengthen UNACU's grassroots presence while fostering a culture of civic engagement within the ICT sector.

3. Spearheading the Formation of a National Council for ICT and Computer Users

UNACU will play a leading role in initiating the establishment of a **National Council for ICT and Computer Users**—a multi-stakeholder platform aimed at:

- Advocating for user-centered ICT policies
- Promoting national standards in digital education and awareness
- Coordinating ICT efforts among users, educators, regulators, and tech institutions
- Offering a formal space for dialogue between civil society and government bodies on digital inclusion

Discussions have already begun with the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance and other key stakeholders.



4. Publication of a Quarterly Newsletter and Members Magazine

To enhance communication, foster knowledge-sharing, and strengthen its community of practice, the **Uganda National Association for Computer Users (UNACU)** will, beginning in 2025, publish a **quarterly newsletter and a members' magazine**. These two publications will serve as key tools for information dissemination, engagement, and visibility across UNACU's growing network of ICT practitioners, learners, educators, policymakers, and development partners.

Overview of the Newsletter and Members' Magazine

1. Purpose and Objectives

The primary goal of these publications is to build a more informed, connected, and active UNACU membership. They aim to:

- **Keep members informed** about the latest programs, policy developments, events, and opportunities.
- **Encourage active participation** by showcasing member stories and contributions.
- **Highlight ICT trends** and educational innovations relevant to Uganda's digital transformation.
- **Strengthen institutional memory** by documenting progress, challenges, and strategic milestones.

2. Content and Structure

Both the newsletter and the magazine will feature rich, curated content divided into thematic sections. These may include:

a) Success Stories and Field Reports

Articles will spotlight achievements from schools, communities, and regional offices where UNACU is active. For example:

- How an ICT club in a rural school built a basic weather app using Python.
- Testimonials from learners and volunteers in newly launched ICT learning centers.
- Impact stories from digital literacy campaigns and Girls in ICT programs.

b) Exclusive Interviews and Member Profiles

Each issue will carry interviews with:

- Influential voices in ICT and education in Uganda.
- Notable UNACU members, such as club leaders, regional coordinators, or student innovators.
- Government officials or partners engaged in digital policy or development.

c) Educational Features and Skill-Building Content

To promote ongoing learning and skill development, the magazine will include:

- Tutorials on coding, software tools, and ICT applications.
- Explainers on topics like cybersecurity, digital rights, and cloud computing.
- “Tech Talk” columns breaking down complex digital concepts for general readers.

d) Policy Insights and Advocacy Updates

These sections will keep members informed about:

- National ICT policy changes and their implications for users.
- UNACU’s role in shaping the proposed National Council for ICT and Computer Users.
- Advocacy efforts around digital inclusion, data privacy, and ICT in education.

e) Member Contributions and Innovations

Members will be invited to contribute original content such as:

- Opinion pieces, essays, or letters to the editor.
- Creative projects or apps developed by students or educators.
- Ideas for improving digital access in communities.

f) Community Announcements and Event Highlights

- Upcoming conferences, webinars, and training sessions.
- Notices about competitions, scholarships, and partnership opportunities.
- Recaps of past events with photos and key takeaways.

3. Format and Accessibility

- The **newsletter** will be concise (2–4 pages), emailed quarterly to members, and downloadable from the UNACU website.
- The **members’ magazine** will be more extensive (16–32 pages), produced quarterly in both **print and digital formats**, distributed at UNACU events, schools, and learning centers.

To ensure inclusivity:

- Articles will be written in simple, clear English with occasional regional language inserts for broader accessibility.
- Visual aids such as infographics and photos will be used to enhance understanding, especially for youth readers.

4. Strategic Value

By institutionalizing these publications, UNACU will:

- Deepen engagement with its members across all regions.

- Create a platform that captures and celebrates grassroots innovation.
- Contribute to national discourse on digital empowerment and ICT policy.
- Attract partners, donors, and stakeholders who wish to align with a transparent, forward-thinking organization.

UNACU's newsletter and members' magazine are not just communication tools—they are strategic instruments to inspire, connect, and empower Uganda's digital future. Through consistent storytelling and information sharing, they will shape a national narrative where every member is seen, heard, and involved.



5. Expansion of Regional Offices and ICT Learning Centers

In response to the growing demand for digital services and the need for greater access to technology, UNACU plans to expand its operations in **2025** by opening additional **regional offices** and **community ICT learning centers** in underserved areas. This strategic move will allow UNACU to bring its services directly to the communities that need them most, especially in **rural and peri-urban settings**, where access to technology and digital literacy programs has traditionally been limited.

Key Features and Objectives of the Expansion:

1. Regular Digital Literacy Programs and Computer Training

The new **community ICT learning centers** will serve as focal points for **digital literacy education**. These centers will offer:

- **Basic computer skills training**, including word processing, internet browsing, and email communication, which are essential for both education and employment.
- **Advanced digital skills** such as coding, data analysis, graphic design, and social media management for those looking to enter the digital economy.
- **Specialized courses** targeting different age groups, from schoolchildren to adults seeking to improve their professional skills.

The centers will be equipped with the necessary infrastructure—**computers, software, internet access, and instructors**—to ensure effective learning. Each center will offer training tailored to the needs of the local community, whether it's for students, teachers, small business owners, or women seeking to enhance their tech skills.

2. Coordination Hubs for ICT Clubs and Outreach Activities

The centers will also act as **coordination hubs** for **ICT clubs**, creating spaces where students, educators, and volunteers can come together for:

- **ICT club meetings**: Providing support for school-based clubs, offering resources, and organizing local competitions and events.
- **Community outreach programs**: Hosting workshops, awareness campaigns, and events on the importance of digital literacy and safe internet practices.
- **Partner collaborations**: Engaging with local NGOs, schools, and other stakeholders to deliver joint programs aimed at increasing digital access and inclusion.

These hubs will serve as local epicenters for UNACU's activities, fostering collaboration, innovation, and community engagement.

3. Public Access to Computers, Internet, and Educational Resources

One of the critical features of the new learning centers will be **public access** to technology. These centers will provide:

- **Free or subsidized internet access**, allowing individuals to search for jobs, learn new skills, or connect with others across the country.
- **Computers** for students, job seekers, and entrepreneurs to use for schoolwork, business development, or personal projects.
- **Educational resources**, including textbooks, e-learning platforms, and training materials, to support self-guided learning.

The centers will be open to the public, ensuring that **digital access is democratized**, particularly for those who lack personal devices or reliable internet connections at home. This is especially crucial for **rural and underserved communities**, where the cost of internet and digital devices can be prohibitive.

Impact and Long-Term Vision

By opening **regional offices and ICT learning centers** in strategic locations, UNACU will ensure that:

- **Digital resources** and educational opportunities are brought closer to underserved communities, empowering individuals to engage in the digital world.
- **Local economies** benefit from improved digital literacy, which can boost entrepreneurship, job readiness, and access to global markets.
- **Community members**—especially youth and women—gain the skills needed to thrive in the digital economy and contribute to national development.

This expansion will help UNACU achieve its broader goal of **promoting digital inclusion** across Uganda and ensuring that **no one is left behind in the digital era**. It will bridge the gap between urban centers and remote areas, creating **inclusive, sustainable learning environments** for people of all ages.

6. Strengthening of the Girls in ICT Program and Community Tech Hubs

In 2025, UNACU is placing a **bold emphasis on gender inclusion and rural digital empowerment**, recognizing that Uganda’s digital future must be equitable and far-reaching.

Expanding the Girls in ICT Program

To address the gender gap in digital skills and STEM fields, UNACU will significantly scale up its **Girls in ICT initiative**. This effort will be rooted in community engagement, practical learning, and mentorship.

Key Strategies:

- **Regional Bootcamps for Girls in STEM:**
UNACU will host targeted bootcamps across Uganda—specifically designed for female students. These camps will offer hands-on training in coding, robotics, digital design, and entrepreneurship. The aim is to build confidence, skills, and curiosity among girls aged 12–19.

- **Creating Safe and Inspiring Learning Spaces:**
By collaborating with partner schools, UNACU will help create learning environments that are gender-sensitive, safe, and motivating. This includes ensuring access to female instructors, tailored learning materials, and facilities that encourage full participation of girls in digital activities.
- **Female Mentorship Networks:**
UNACU will partner with leading women in the ICT sector—engineers, software developers, data analysts, and educators—to serve as mentors. Girls participating in UNACU programs will be paired with mentors for regular guidance, career inspiration, and networking opportunities, fostering a community of support and ambition.

Supporting Rural Innovation through Community Tech Hubs

UNACU understands that **digital exclusion is most acute in rural areas**, where access to infrastructure, equipment, and skilled trainers is limited. To close this gap, the organization will invest in the **development of community-based tech hubs**—particularly in underserved districts.

Features of These Hubs:

- **Free access to computers, internet, and learning resources**
- **Training sessions in basic computer literacy, mobile applications, and online entrepreneurship**
- **Open labs for students, youth, and small business owners to experiment and innovate**
- **Opportunities for partnerships with local governments, NGOs, and vocational institutions**

These hubs will act as bridges to opportunity—helping rural youth unlock digital tools for education, employment, and civic engagement.

A National Catalyst for Inclusive Digital Empowerment

UNACU’s 2025 agenda is not just aspirational—it is **responsive to Uganda’s urgent digital development needs**. By integrating gender-responsive programming, building rural infrastructure, and fostering national coordination, UNACU is stepping fully into its role as a **catalyst for inclusive, skills-based digital transformation**.

With youth, educators, and communities at the center of its mission, UNACU is committed to preparing Uganda for **full participation in the digital economy—where no one is left behind**.

3. Capacity Building and Institutional Growth

3.1 Strengthening the Secretariat

As UNACU continued to expand its footprint and influence in 2024, it significantly strengthened its internal capacity to manage the growing scale of operations and ensure effective service delivery. This focus on building a strong and efficient **Secretariat** allowed the organization to meet the increasing demand for its programs and projects, while also ensuring sustainability and long-term impact.

Key Enhancements:

- **Appointment of Regional Coordinators**

UNACU appointed **four Regional Coordinators** to oversee the activities and programs in each of Uganda's four regions—**Northern, Western, Eastern, and Central**. These coordinators were selected based on their expertise in ICT, community engagement, and project management. Their roles included:

- Ensuring the smooth implementation of programs in their regions
- Coordinating with local schools, ICT clubs, and volunteers
- Facilitating community engagement initiatives
- Monitoring and evaluating regional impact

This structure helped decentralize UNACU's operations and ensured that the organization was responsive to the needs of different regions.

- **Expansion of Volunteer Network**

The growth of UNACU's **volunteer network** was key to increasing the reach and impact of its programs. In 2024, **52 active volunteers and outreach officers** were engaged, helping to:

- Deliver digital literacy training in schools and communities
- Lead local ICT bootcamps and events
- Assist in program monitoring and evaluation
- Support the development of local ICT clubs

Volunteers were instrumental in expanding UNACU's grassroots presence and mobilizing local communities to participate in digital education initiatives.

- **Engagement of a Technical Advisor**

To further strengthen its ICT and educational offerings, UNACU **engaged a Technical Advisor for Curriculum and ICT Club Development**. The advisor worked closely with regional coordinators and local educators to:

- Develop a **standardized curriculum** for ICT clubs in schools, ensuring consistency and quality across the nation
- Provide expert guidance on **best practices for ICT education**, with an emphasis on hands-on learning and digital literacy
- Support the integration of **emerging technologies** into club activities, including coding, mobile app development, and digital entrepreneurship

This role significantly enhanced the quality and scope of UNACU's educational content, ensuring it remained relevant to the evolving ICT landscape.

- **Office Enhancements at Masaka HQ**

The **Masaka headquarters** saw significant **office enhancements**, including the

establishment of a **resource hub** and a **training center**. This was a strategic move to improve internal operations and offer:

- A **physical space for training sessions**, workshops, and community outreach activities
 - A **resource hub** with up-to-date learning materials, e-resources, and ICT tools available for community use
 - **Meeting and collaboration spaces** for staff, volunteers, and stakeholders
- These enhancements provided a base of operations that facilitated smoother coordination and service delivery across all UNACU programs.

3.2 Digital Tools and Equipment

To support the growing number of digital education initiatives and ensure effective training delivery, UNACU made significant investments in **digital tools and equipment**. These investments helped provide both **physical and online learning opportunities** for communities and schools across Uganda.

Key Investments:

- **Procurement of New Equipment**

In 2024, UNACU invested in the following key equipment to improve its training capabilities and community outreach efforts:

- **25 new laptops**, ensuring that training centers and ICT clubs were equipped with the latest technology for hands-on learning.
- **3 projectors**, enabling larger training sessions, presentations, and workshops.
- **Wireless routers**, facilitating internet access in remote locations, ensuring that learners had access to online resources and e-learning tools.

These technological upgrades ensured that **UNACU's training environments** were equipped with the tools necessary for quality digital education, both in classrooms and in community hubs.

- **Cloud-Based Digital Library for ICT Clubs**

UNACU set up a **cloud-based digital library** accessible to all its **ICT clubs**. This digital resource hub provided:

- **Curriculum materials**, including digital textbooks, coding tutorials, and e-learning courses
 - **Interactive content**, such as instructional videos, webinars, and recorded workshops
 - **Learning tools** for club members to explore and engage with independently
- The digital library ensured that **ICT clubs across Uganda** had consistent access to high-quality educational resources, regardless of their geographic location.

- **Ongoing Development of the UNACU E-Learning Portal**

To further expand its digital education offerings, UNACU embarked on the **development of an E-Learning Portal**. This portal will serve as an online platform for:

- **Short courses** on various ICT-related subjects such as basic computer skills, coding, web development, and digital entrepreneurship.

- **ICT modules** designed to support both students and educators in the formal education sector.
 - **Self-paced learning** for users in remote areas who may not have access to traditional classroom environments.
- The E-Learning Portal represents a major step in **scaling UNACU's reach** and providing lifelong learning opportunities for individuals across Uganda.

Impact of These Developments:

These enhancements have significantly increased **UNACU's operational capacity** and strengthened its ability to:

- **Provide high-quality digital education** across all regions of Uganda
- **Support regional and local ICT clubs** with reliable resources and expert guidance
- **Ensure greater access to ICT training** for underserved communities, especially in rural areas

With these improvements in both human resources and technological infrastructure, UNACU is well-positioned to meet the demands of its growing membership and play a pivotal role in Uganda's digital transformation in 2025 and beyond.





4. ICT Clubs and Youth Empowerment

4.1 School Engagement

In 2024, UNACU's **school engagement strategy** made significant strides in bringing digital literacy to students across Uganda. The organization focused on expanding the presence of **ICT clubs in schools**, enhancing the quality of mentorship, and organizing key leadership development activities. These efforts were part of a broader initiative to **embed digital skills into the fabric of the country's educational system** and empower students to thrive in the digital economy.

Key Achievements:

- **Formation of 36 New ICT Clubs Across Secondary and Upper Primary Schools**
UNACU successfully facilitated the creation of **36 new ICT clubs** in secondary and upper primary schools throughout Uganda. This expansion was crucial in:
 - **Bringing digital literacy** to a broader group of students.
 - **Creating spaces** where students could explore technology outside the traditional classroom setting.
 - **Encouraging peer learning**, as club members taught and supported one another in various ICT-related activities.
These clubs became vital hubs for digital education, fostering curiosity, innovation, and teamwork among students.
- **Ongoing Mentorship for ICT Clubs Started in 2022–2023**
For clubs that were established in previous years, such as those at **Lubaga Girls, Centenary High, and Kitovu**, UNACU **continued its mentorship program** to ensure these clubs thrived. Key mentorship activities included:
 - Providing **guidance on club activities** such as organizing events, competitions, and workshops.
 - Assisting in the development of **ICT projects and competitions** to challenge students.
 - Offering support in **leadership development** for club members, especially for the club leaders, ensuring they had the skills and confidence to run the clubs effectively.
- **ICT Club Leaders Bootcamp**
In 2024, UNACU hosted a **highly successful ICT Club Leaders Bootcamp in Masaka**, which was attended by **85 student leaders** from schools across the region. This bootcamp was designed to:
 - **Train and empower student leaders** who were responsible for guiding their clubs.
 - Focus on **leadership skills**, project management, and communication.
 - Provide a platform for **peer networking**, allowing club leaders to share experiences and ideas.
 - Introduce new tools and resources for **engaging club members** and developing more advanced ICT projects.

These activities helped cement the role of ICT clubs in shaping the next generation of digital leaders in Uganda.

4.2 Activities Conducted by ICT Clubs

The **ICT clubs** that UNACU facilitated became a central feature of **digital education in Uganda's academic institutions**. In 2024, these clubs engaged in a range of **hands-on, impactful activities** that not only built essential digital skills but also fostered creativity, innovation, and teamwork.

Key Activities Conducted by ICT Clubs:

- **Weekly ICT Skill-Sharing Sessions**

Many ICT clubs organized **weekly skill-sharing sessions**, during which members would learn and teach different ICT concepts. These sessions covered a variety of topics, including:

- **Basic computer skills:** keyboarding, word processing, and internet browsing.
- **Coding:** teaching beginner programming languages like Scratch and Python.
- **Digital design:** creating posters, logos, and graphics using tools like Canva and GIMP.

These sessions created an environment of **collaborative learning** where students not only gained technical skills but also learned to communicate and problem-solve together.

- **School-Wide Digital Literacy Events**

ICT clubs took the initiative to organize **school-wide events** focused on **digital literacy**. These events included:

- **Awareness campaigns** on the importance of cybersecurity, safe internet use, and responsible online behavior.
- **Workshops and seminars** to introduce students, teachers, and parents to basic ICT tools and resources.
- **Hackathons and coding competitions** where students showcased their programming and digital project skills.

These events helped raise **ICT awareness** within the school community and encouraged more students to join ICT clubs.

- **Creation of Basic Apps, Posters, and Research Websites**

In line with **hands-on learning**, club members took on projects that involved **practical application** of their digital skills. Some examples include:

- **Basic mobile apps:** Students created simple applications such as calculators, weather apps, and educational games using coding platforms like **MIT App Inventor**.
- **Posters:** Members designed posters for school events or social causes, using graphic design software like **Canva**.
- **Research websites:** Students built small websites that served as research repositories or project showcases for their clubs. This helped improve their understanding of **web development** and **content creation**.

These projects not only strengthened students' technical skills but also **fostered creativity** and gave them a sense of accomplishment and ownership.

- **Participation in the National UNACU Digital Challenge Competition**

The **UNACU Digital Challenge Competition** served as a platform for ICT clubs to demonstrate their skills on a national stage. In 2024, several schools participated in the competition, which included:

- Coding challenges, where students were tasked with solving real-world problems through software development.
 - Presentations of **innovative digital projects**, such as apps, websites, or digital tools developed by club members.
 - **Judging panels** consisting of experts from the ICT sector who provided feedback and mentorship to students.
- Participation in this competition encouraged **healthy competition, collaboration, and innovation**, giving students the opportunity to **showcase their work** and gain recognition for their efforts.

Impact and Future Outlook

The formation of these ICT clubs and the activities they facilitated have become the **backbone of digital empowerment** in Uganda's academic institutions. These clubs are now key drivers in creating a **digitally literate generation**, equipped with the skills necessary to navigate and thrive in the modern digital world. By providing a **platform for practical learning, peer support, and real-world application**, the ICT clubs not only help students develop technical skills but also cultivate a mindset of **problem-solving, innovation, and collaboration**.

As UNACU continues to expand its reach and strengthen its partnerships with schools, the success of these ICT clubs will play a crucial role in shaping the future of digital education in Uganda. The ongoing mentorship, club activities, and competitions will ensure that Uganda's students are well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the **digital economy**.



5. Field Attachments and Skills Transfer

In 2024, UNACU launched its **structured field attachment program** designed to provide **ICT students with practical, hands-on experience** in real-world work environments. This initiative was aimed at bridging the gap between classroom learning and the demands of the digital workplace, ensuring that students gained valuable insights into the applications of their digital skills in various sectors.

Key Highlights of the Field Attachment Program:

Field Attachment Sites:

UNACU carefully selected a range of **partner organizations** across different sectors, ensuring that students had exposure to both **public sector operations** and **private industry**. The selected sites included:

- **Municipal ICT Offices in Lyantonde and Mukono:**
These offices provided students with a chance to engage in **government-related ICT services**, learning about the role of ICT in public administration and service delivery. Students had the opportunity to:
 - Work on **local government databases**.
 - Support the maintenance and upgrading of **office IT infrastructure**.
 - Assist in the **digitization of public records** and help improve **e-governance** initiatives.
- **Tech-Focused NGOs in Mbalala and Masaka:**
Students who were placed with these non-governmental organizations gained exposure to how **ICT is used for social good**. They were involved in:
 - **Developing digital solutions** for community-based projects, such as health outreach programs or educational initiatives.
 - Assisting in **data management** for various social programs, ensuring that information was accurately collected, analyzed, and stored.
 - Engaging in the use of **technology for advocacy and awareness campaigns**.
- **Selected Private Companies Offering Web and Data Services:**
Private sector placements, particularly in tech companies providing **web development** and **data services**, allowed students to get a real taste of the **business side of ICT**. Tasks included:
 - **Website development and updates**, including working on content management systems (CMS) like WordPress and Joomla.
 - **Data analysis** using tools like Excel, Google Analytics, and Tableau to help businesses interpret and make use of their data.
 - Contributing to **social media management** efforts, from content creation to **community engagement**.
 - Learning about **search engine optimization (SEO)** and **web analytics**, which are critical in driving online business performance.

Skills Developed by Students:

The structured field attachment program gave students the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills that are directly applicable in the **digital workplace**. These included:

- **Computer Maintenance:**
Students worked on **hardware maintenance**, troubleshooting issues with PCs and laptops, installing software, and ensuring devices were up-to-date. This provided them with practical skills that are highly sought after in the **IT support and network management** fields.
- **Data Entry and Analysis:**
Many students assisted with **data entry** tasks, including the organization and management of databases. They also gained valuable experience in **data analysis**, using tools to help businesses and organizations make informed decisions based on available data.
- **Website Updates:**
Students worked on **updating websites**, ensuring that content was fresh, relevant, and error-free. This experience gave them hands-on knowledge of **web content management systems (CMS)**, improving their understanding of how websites are maintained and optimized.
- **Social Media Management:**
With the rise of digital marketing, students gained experience managing **social media platforms** for businesses, nonprofits, and government entities. They learned how to create engaging content, respond to customer inquiries, and monitor social media analytics to drive engagement.
- **Internet Safety and Online Etiquette:**
A key component of the program was emphasizing the importance of **cybersecurity** and **online safety**. Students learned the basics of safe internet practices, including:
 - **Password management**, phishing prevention, and ensuring that personal information was kept secure.
 - **Professional online behavior** and etiquette when interacting with clients, colleagues, or online communities, which is essential in today's interconnected workplace.

Program Impact:

- **Hands-on Experience:** By working on real-world projects, students gained practical experience that made them more confident in their abilities and better prepared for the job market.
- **Industry Exposure:** Students were introduced to the work environments of various sectors, from **public administration** to **social enterprise** to **private business**, offering them a holistic understanding of how ICT is applied across industries.
- **Networking Opportunities:** During their field attachments, students had the chance to interact with industry professionals, mentors, and potential employers, which could lead to **future job opportunities** or **internships**.
- **Enhanced Employability:** The program helped students develop both **technical skills** and **soft skills**, making them more competitive in the job market. Employers value candidates who not only have theoretical knowledge but also **practical, hands-on experience**.

Future Plans:

Given the success of the 2024 field attachment program, **UNACU plans to expand this initiative in 2025**, involving even more schools, organizations, and companies. The goal is to provide **wider access** to field attachments, allowing more students across Uganda to benefit from this vital experience. Additionally, UNACU will explore partnerships with international tech companies to offer global exposure for students.

By offering these field attachment opportunities, UNACU is **empowering students** to become skilled professionals ready to contribute to Uganda's **digital economy** and beyond.



6. Community Outreach and Volunteerism

In 2024, UNACU remained firmly rooted in its **community-based identity**, actively engaging rural and underserved communities through a range of **outreach programs** aimed at increasing **digital literacy** and promoting **safe online practices**. These initiatives were designed to ensure that the benefits of digital technology were accessible to everyone, especially those in remote and rural areas. Below are the key highlights of UNACU's community-based outreach efforts:

Key Community-Based Outreach Initiatives:

1. Door-to-Door ICT Sensitization Campaigns in Rural Parishes

To reach the most underserved communities, UNACU implemented **door-to-door sensitization campaigns** in rural parishes across Uganda. These campaigns aimed to:

- **Raise awareness** about the importance of ICT in daily life, education, and business.
 - **Inform community members** about the digital opportunities available to them, such as online education, digital entrepreneurship, and access to government services.
 - **Promote safe internet use and cyber hygiene**, teaching people how to protect themselves from online threats, such as scams and privacy breaches.
- The door-to-door approach allowed UNACU to directly engage with individuals and households, helping to **overcome barriers** related to access and knowledge about technology.

2. School-Based Outreach Workshops in Over 20 Districts

UNACU also focused on **school-based outreach workshops** across **more than 20 districts**, engaging students, teachers, and school administrators in **digital education**. These workshops included:

- **Introductory ICT training**, aimed at **schoolchildren** and teachers who had limited exposure to digital tools.
 - **Workshops on digital skills**, such as **basic computer use, internet safety, and educational tools** that could support teaching and learning.
 - **Community engagement** in school activities, such as ICT club formation and project demonstrations.
- These workshops not only **increased access to digital skills** for school communities but also served as a foundation for creating long-term ICT clubs and digital programs within the schools.

3. Hosting of 3 Regional ICT Caravan Bootcamps Using Mobile Kits and Pop-Up Labs

As part of its **outreach strategy**, UNACU launched a series of **regional ICT caravan bootcamps**, traveling to different parts of Uganda to bring **digital training directly to rural communities**. The caravans utilized **mobile ICT kits and pop-up labs**, allowing UNACU to set up temporary training spaces in remote areas.

Key features included:

- **Mobile ICT kits** with laptops, projectors, and internet connectivity.
- **Pop-up training labs** set up in accessible locations like community halls, schools, or market centers.
- **Hands-on demonstrations** of basic computer skills, internet use, and digital tools. The caravan bootcamps reached a wide range of people, from **students** to **community leaders** and **small business owners**, providing them with access to technology and skills that they otherwise would not have had.

4. Training of Over 900 Community Members in Basic Computer Use and Responsible Internet Behavior

In 2024, UNACU trained **over 900 community members**, empowering them with basic **computer skills** and knowledge of **safe internet behavior**. These sessions were designed to:

- **Equip individuals** with foundational **digital skills**, such as navigating operating systems, word processing, internet browsing, and email usage.
- **Promote responsible internet behavior**, teaching participants about the importance of **data privacy, cybersecurity, and safe online communication**.
- **Encourage digital inclusion**, ensuring that community members, particularly in rural areas, were not left behind in Uganda's digital transformation.

The training sessions were highly interactive and catered to **all age groups**, including **youth, adults, and older generations**. This broad range of training ensured that the benefits of digital literacy were **widely distributed** across different segments of the population.

Outreach Session Components:

Each outreach session was carefully designed to ensure maximum engagement and impact. The sessions included:

- **Free flyers and educational materials:** These were distributed to participants, providing them with key information about digital tools, internet safety, and how to access online resources.
- **Practical demonstrations:** Trainers conducted live demonstrations, showing how to use basic computer applications, search the internet for information, and navigate online services like email and social media.
- **Hands-on practice:** Participants had the chance to practice using **laptops and mobile devices**, gaining confidence and familiarity with technology. This hands-on approach was critical in helping them gain practical skills they could immediately apply.

Impact of Community Outreach:

The community outreach initiatives were instrumental in:

- **Increasing digital literacy** in areas where access to technology was limited, helping bridge the digital divide.
- **Empowering individuals** by giving them the skills needed to participate in the digital economy, access educational resources, and take part in civic engagement activities online.
- **Promoting safe online practices** and protecting individuals from the risks associated with digital platforms.
- **Fostering a culture of innovation** in rural and peri-urban communities, encouraging individuals to consider digital solutions for local challenges.

These efforts helped **UNACU maintain its community-based identity**, ensuring that **digital inclusion** remained at the heart of its mission. By making ICT accessible and understandable to all, UNACU continued to **champion digital literacy** and **empower people** in even the most remote corners of Uganda.



7. Advocacy, Media, and Public Engagement

In 2024, UNACU took **deliberate steps** to enhance its **visibility** and **policy influence**, reinforcing its role as a **key player in Uganda’s digital transformation**. These efforts were aimed at **shaping national discourse** around digital literacy and advocating for policies that ensure **no Ugandan is left behind in the digital age**. Through a variety of **advocacy initiatives** and **media engagements**, UNACU successfully positioned itself as a **leading voice in ICT policy**, driving awareness of the importance of **digital inclusion** and **rural access to technology**.

Key Initiatives to Increase Visibility and Policy Influence:

1. Submission of a Position Paper to the Parliament ICT Committee on Digital Exclusion

UNACU took a **strategic step** in influencing national ICT policy by submitting a **position paper** to the **Parliamentary ICT Committee**. The paper focused on the critical issue of **digital exclusion** in Uganda, particularly in rural and underserved communities. Key points raised included:

- **Barriers to ICT access** such as limited internet connectivity, lack of devices, and digital illiteracy.
 - The need for **policy reforms** to promote **inclusive digital education** and equitable access to ICT resources.
 - Recommendations for **targeted investments in rural areas**, including **community-based tech hubs**, affordable internet services, and ICT training programs.
- This **policy advocacy** helped solidify UNACU’s role as an **influential policy advisor**, contributing to discussions on **digital inclusion** at the national level.

2. Hosting Radio Shows on CBS FM, Buddu FM, and Unity FM

To reach a broader audience, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas, UNACU hosted **radio shows** on popular stations such as **CBS FM, Buddu FM, and Unity FM**. These radio programs served as platforms to:

- **Educate the public** on the importance of **digital literacy**, how it can transform lives, and its relevance to education, health, and business.
- **Promote UNACU’s initiatives**, such as **ICT clubs in schools, community training programs**, and the **Girls in ICT program**.
- **Engage local communities** in discussions about **internet safety, cybersecurity, and safe online behavior**.

The radio shows were an effective way to **engage with diverse audiences**—particularly those in rural areas who may not have access to digital platforms—and raise awareness of digital inclusion issues.

3. Publishing 12 Monthly Articles on Digital Skills and Rural ICT in National Newspapers and Online Platforms

UNACU maintained a strong presence in the **media** throughout the year by publishing **12 monthly articles** in **national newspapers** and **online platforms**. These articles focused on:

- **The role of digital skills in economic empowerment**, highlighting how access to ICT can drive **employment opportunities, entrepreneurship, and economic growth**.
- The **importance of bridging the digital divide** between urban and rural areas, with a particular focus on **rural ICT initiatives, digital education programs, and community-driven solutions**.
- **Success stories** of individuals and communities that benefited from UNACU's **training programs, ICT clubs, and digital skills workshops**.
These articles not only **raised awareness** of UNACU's efforts but also **stimulated public dialogue** on how Uganda can harness technology for inclusive development.

4. Participation in the National Innovation Week, Presenting Grassroots Digital Models

UNACU participated in the **National Innovation Week**, an event that celebrates and showcases innovative solutions across various sectors. At the event, UNACU presented its **grassroots digital models**, including:

- **Community-based ICT training** initiatives, which focus on delivering **digital skills** to underserved communities.
- **ICT solutions** that address **local challenges**, such as the development of **mobile apps** for rural farmers, digital platforms for small businesses, and educational tools for remote learners.
- **Partnerships with NGOs and government bodies** to implement **digital literacy programs** in rural schools and community centers.
This participation helped position UNACU as a **leading innovator** in the **grassroots digital space** and highlighted its efforts to leverage technology to solve real-world problems.

Impact of These Efforts:

UNACU's **increased visibility** and **policy engagement** in 2024 have had significant positive outcomes:

- **Strengthened policy influence:** Through its submissions to the **Parliamentary ICT Committee** and participation in the **National Innovation Week**, UNACU has become a trusted **policy partner**, advocating for policies that promote **inclusive digital education and rural access to ICT**.
- **Expanded outreach:** Hosting **radio shows** and publishing **monthly articles** enabled UNACU to reach a wide audience, including rural communities and marginalized groups, raising awareness about the **importance of digital literacy**.
- **Increased recognition:** UNACU's **media presence** and participation in national events established the organization as a **leading advocate for digital inclusion**, strengthening its credibility and influence within the ICT sector and beyond.

As UNACU continues to push for **inclusive digital transformation**, these efforts to **raise awareness, shape policy, and engage the public** will play a critical role in achieving its mission of **bridging Uganda's digital divide**.



DONATE

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TVs, Projectors, Speakers, Furniture, Tables, Smart Phones, Tabs etc

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8. Challenges Faced

Challenge	Description	Strategy Taken
<i>Equipment Shortages</i>	Many schools lacked computers	Partnered with well-wishers to donate refurbished laptops
<i>Connectivity Issues</i>	Internet was unavailable in many outreach areas	Deployed portable routers and promoted offline tools
<i>Volunteer Burnout</i>	High workload during conference and regional events	Introduced stipends, transport support, and rest periods
<i>Funding Gaps</i>	Demand for programming exceeded available resources	Developed donor proposals and started crowdfunding campaigns

9. Financial Report (Summary)

<i>Item</i>	<i>Amount (UGX)</i>
<i>Membership Revenue</i>	23,000,000
<i>Donations & In-kind Support</i>	34,000,000
<i>Ministry Support (Event Logistics)</i>	18,000,000
<i>Total Income</i>	75,000,000
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	72,700,000
<i>Closing Balance</i>	2,300,000 (for 2025 Q1 rollout)

Note: Full audited financial statements available upon request.

10. Strategic Goals for 2025

10.1 Policy Advocacy and Engagement

UNACU made strategic efforts to influence digital policy and ensure that grassroots voices are represented at the national level. In 2024:

- A **position paper** was submitted to the **Parliamentary Committee on ICT and National Guidance**, focusing on the challenges of **digital exclusion**, particularly in rural schools and underserved communities.
- The paper recommended **investment in ICT infrastructure, teacher ICT training, and policy support** for community ICT learning centers.
- This step strengthened UNACU's visibility as a stakeholder in national policy formulation and advocacy for inclusive digital transformation.

10.2 Radio and Broadcast Media Outreach

To increase public awareness and reach remote communities, UNACU organized several broadcast campaigns:

- **Radio shows** were hosted on high-traffic stations such as **CBS FM, Buddu FM, and Unity FM**, with topics covering:
 - Digital skills for youth and women
 - Online safety and cyber hygiene
 - The role of ICT clubs in schools
- Each show featured live listener questions, guest experts, and practical guidance, significantly raising community engagement and visibility.

10.3 Articles and Publications

In its bid to shape national discourse and educate the public:

- UNACU **published 12 monthly articles** in both **national newspapers** and **online platforms**.
- Topics included:
 - The digital divide and rural education
 - Innovative models for ICT teaching in Ugandan schools
 - The future of work and digital youth readiness
- These articles reached policymakers, educators, and development partners, adding credibility to UNACU's initiatives.

10.4 Participation in National Innovation Events

UNACU joined platforms that celebrate innovation and collaboration:

- At the **National Innovation Week**, UNACU showcased its **Grassroots Digital Inclusion Model**, highlighting:
 - Mobile ICT learning kits
 - ICT club activities in schools
 - Partnerships with local governments and NGOs
- This presence allowed UNACU to network with innovators, private sector players, and government actors, further expanding its influence.





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"We don't work to lose."

11. Conclusion

UNACU's journey throughout 2024 has marked a significant evolution—both in scope and substance. What began as grassroots mobilization in rural parishes and schools has now matured into a nationally recognized movement for digital inclusion and empowerment. Our growing footprint across Uganda—through community ICT centers, structured student field attachments, and the expansion of ICT clubs—has demonstrated that digital transformation is not a luxury but a critical necessity for equitable development. The successful hosting of our National ICT Conference at Makerere University not only positioned us at the heart of academic and innovation discourse but also attracted the strategic partnership of the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance, confirming that our mission aligns with Uganda's national priorities. With more voices joining our cause—students, educators, volunteers, policymakers, and development partners—UNACU is no longer operating on the periphery. We are now a catalyst for systemic change. As we step into the future, our resolve is stronger than ever: to build an inclusive digital Uganda where opportunity, access, and empowerment reach every community.

Together, let's build a digitally empowered Uganda—one learner, one school, one community at a time.

**UGANDA NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTER USERS
(UNACU) PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION**



No longer used ICT Equipments

eg Monitor Screens, CPU, Laptops, Chargers, Printers,
TVs, Projectors, Speakers, Furniture, Tables, Smart Phones, Tabs etc

REASON TO DONATE

**TO HELP CHILDREN, PEOPLE & STUDENTS IN
DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES TO ACQUIRE COMPUTER SKILLS**



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