MAXIM NYANSA
I T S O L U T I O N S

Introduction

What is the problem in Africa ?

Every week many young people from Africa venture the risky journey to Europe . Many of them are highly educated young men from West Africa, with Nigeria as the most likely country of origin. They have been able to study because their family or village has turned every penny to send them to school. After all, as high potential they are the young generation their family has placed their hopes on. If they fail to find a job in their own country, they try elsewhere. Out of their own frustration that they have disappointed their parents, out of social pressure or because of unrealistic stories about how things are going in Europe.

Traditionally development aid has been directed towards rural areas. Small villages with poor farmers, small primitive schools. In the meantime, much has changed in Africa and a large part of the young population in particular lives in the big cities, with a decent education but in poor (slum) areas and without perspective. *Here the challenge of Africa is in the 21 ᵉ century.*

Young high potentials from poor families: this is Maxim Nyansa 's target group

Many young people are unemployed in the big cities in Africa. School leavers as well as high-potential graduates are unemployed at home , especially when they do not have a wealthy family with the right social network to arrange a job for them. Moreover, the schools, but also the vocational and university courses are usually purely theoretical. Young people are not well prepared for the job market: hence, there is a mismatch.

Maxim Nyansa was founded with the aim of offering young people in Africa a career perspective through ICT. We provide young people with intensive practical training and guide them to work or to start their own ICT company. In addition, we see that there is still a lot to improve in the basics of education. We therefore have a also developed a successful program to improve the quality of education for youth, with digital and 21st century skills to prepare them properly for the job market.

Success and expansion

Since 2016 our foundation has been able to successfully implement projects with relatively few resources: we have an integrated approach, which we can scale up with little cost thanks to the efforts of volunteers, hardware donations and open source teaching materials. With these results we have won the FIRE AFRICA AWARD 2019 for our contribution to the digital transformation of Africa. Since then, initiatives have been taken in various African countries to open a branch. This has now happened in Burkina Faso, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, and in Nigeria.

With a support foundation in the Netherlands since 2017, Foundation "Climbing the right tree", we now have an additional partner foundation in Belgium since early 2020 - Ghana4You. Preparations are underway for several other countries. Education is harmonized in the ECOWAS region. We have started a project to translate all our open source training materials into French. Our programs can now be used in schools in all 16 ECOWAS countries reaching up to 200 million youth.

Recently our new online library went live, which makes it even more easy for us to scale up to the various West-African countries.

What does Maxim Nyansa do?

Professionalization of young IT professionals

This program is comparable to what IT companies in Europe or the US offer to yount IT professionals when they hire them shortly after graduation. The program is a combination of field- oriented practical training, gaining experience in real IT projects, soft skills (communication skills, time management) , international certification exams and three years of personal career coaching.

A group of 15-20 young people lives and works at our training center for 4 months. Experienced IT staff with up-to - date knowledge join their bootcamps to give practical training on a voluntary basis . We live and work together according to the standards of the international labor market and thus train the participants practically every day in time management, SCRUM and communication skills. The program is continuously aligned with the local labor market. 4 specializations have now been developed:

- Software engineering
- Data science
- Network security
- IT entrepreneurship

As of 2016, we have trained 85 young people and have successfully guided almost all of them to a quality job in IT or their own IT company.

IT and electronics vocational training

We also focus on SHS graduates. Many young people have a secondary education , but they have not learned a proper profession. During our professional training in the field of computers and electronics, they learn in one year to carry out repairs and maintenance on all kinds of devices. Soft skills, customer service and entrepreneurship are also part of this program.

During the training, the trainees work and learn "on the job" while receiving a small allowance. Afterwards they are able to start their own business with accreditation as a trained and reliable ICT maintenance company. In Africa there is great demand for reliable professionals in this field and our young people have easy access to the work at their level .

A first vocational training course is operational in Banjul, Gambia, where approximately 70 trainees have been trained and successfully guided to work there since 2017. We are currently raising funds to start a similar training center in Nigeria too.

Education improvement programs for African schools

Based on scientific insights into how children learn and the evaluation of fail and success factors of similar programs in Africa, we have developed an integrated approach to improve the quality of education in African schools . We have been gratefully using a program from our colleagues from Computer Shiksha in India www.computershiksha.org . Our own tracking and tracing software allows our hardware donors, our management as well at government officials of the countries where we work to follow all our ICT projects online.

Based on quick scan on the spot, we determine what a school needs and formulate a project with various possible components. The school and its eventual local sponsors pay, and continue our cooperation for at least three years, while our European partners donate hardware. If there is commitment from all parties and there are sufficient resources, a project can start.

As of 2017, we have implemented 50 school projects and reached approximately 16,000 school students in Ghana. We have recently opened new country ofices in Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Burkina Faso and Nigeria. Here we are currently preparing the first school projects with deprived communities, based on this proven concept for schools in the ECOWAS educational system.

Components of our learning transformation program for schools

Maintenance school building	School furniture
Digital skills training teachers	ICT classroom with computers, internet
Digital skills training students	Smartboards and projectors
Interactive education training teachers	Free digital teaching materials
Library	Science club
School software	Three years of technical equipment maintenance

Good used computers for schools

Our foundations in Europe and their charity partners (companies, schools, befriended foundations) collect slightly used computers, smartboards, projectors and other hardware. These are professionally tested, all data is deleted. They are then shipped to Africa for a second life in an African school. This hardware will be received by the schools as a donation, but we merely ask the local community to raise funds to cover our local operating costs (such as clearance, transport, installation costs as well as costs for local trainers.

Volunteers

Maxim Nyansa works largely with volunteers. These are usually professionals who give time to the organization in addition to their work , but also students who do an internship or write a thesis with us . These are logistics employees, PR and communication professionals, fundraisers and in particular a large group of experienced IT specialists and education specialists. They use their practical experience to help us develop good open source educational programs. Every year, about 20 IT professionals fly over to spend a few weeks as trainers in our programs in Africa.

Maxim Nyansa Family

We have been set up from the start as a multicultural organization with the motto "the best of two worlds", combining valuable elements from European and African culture. This means that we teach young people in Africa a number of professional values. Equally important is that Maxim Nyansa has the culture of an African extended family. People pay attention to each other and support and help each other. Everyone is an equal part of this network of "passionate professionals".

How is Maxim Nyansa organized

Maxim Nyansa started in 2016 as a foundation (NGO recognized) in Ghana with a sister organization in the Netherlands since 2017, Stichting "Climbing the right tree" (ANBI, CBF accredited). Since 2019, the organization has spontaneously started to grow internationally, with a growing group of IT professionals and social entrepreneurs from different countries taking the initiative to self- start a national branch of Maxim Nyansa.

Each foundation has an unpaid board of experienced professionals with good knowledge of the situation in the country and good knowledge of education as well as ICT.

Since 2021, we are therefore working with the following structure:

Maxim Nyansa International is a small international body that provides communication, fundraising, joint curriculum development and educational resources. In addition, there are *Maxim Nyansa foundations in various African and European countries,* which are created in collaboration with local partners.

Maxim Nyansa is positioned as an international brand and also operates under that brand name in different countries committed to the same approach and programs.

Situation in 2021

Operational for various years	Started in 2021	Exploration phase
2016 Ghana founders	Burkina Faso	South Africa
	The Gambia	Kenya
	Nigeria	
	Sierra Leone	
2017 Netherlands - "Climbing the right tree"	United States	Switzerland
2020 Belgium - "Ghana4You"		United Kingdom

Funding

Maxim Nyansa is organized in such a way that we can achieve a lot with relatively little money. Most of our value is generated "in kind" .

- We work with excellent volunteers, who are usually experienced professionals; this applies to our trainers, logistics staff, but also to our board members, managers and the new country directors. On our website renowned charity partners can be found who provide us with all kind of services and free materials.
- We work with open source learning resources .
- We collect large quantities of good , second- hand hardware .
- We are IT professionals, we use modern technology to collaborate and share information internationally. We can therefore easily scale up to larger numbers of projects. We have built our own software for our logistics and learning processes.
- Entrepreneurs and social impact investors sponsor us with big discounts for buildings , cars and other things.

Of course money is also needed, for example to pay the salaries of our staff in Accra, and for our cars and containers and the rental of storage space for computers .

- In Africa, local communities by principle have to pay the '' out of pocket '' costs of the school projects themselves. In this way we cover the costs for our local technical staff, school trainers and logistics.
- We carry out part of our projects with external financial support, but only for schools that are in a very disadvantaged position.
- A small group of family funds , private individuals and some confidential major donors support us financially.
- We work with project funding, where we first raise funds for a specific training program. As soon as enough money is received, we start execution.

Monitoring and evaluation

Maxim Nyansa gives great importance to the successful implementation and impact of all programs. From the start, we have focused on the involvement of local professionals and leaders who want to make a difference in their own environment. In addition, we investigated fail and success factors of other ICT and education projects in Africa in recent decades . Based on these (mostly bad) experiences, we have developed our own approach.

From 2019 we have been using a web application that allows us to monitor our hardware and school projects. We also periodically follow all our trainee IT professionals from the start.

We are now taking the next step and, together with Utrecht University in the Netherlands (Business Informatics - ICT4Development), we have been developing an impact assessment method for ICT and Education in Africa. This research project has been completed and is now being implemented . This means that we systematically measure ex ante and ex post all our schools programs and IT training centers. This approach not only covers the implementation but also the impact of our interventions. In 2020, schools in Africa were closed almost all year round due to the COVID pandemic. We expect that in 2021 we will be able to implement this evaluation method in all our projects (existing and new).

Since August 2021 our support foundation in the Netherlands "Climbing the right tree" has received the CBF accreditation. Our internal organization and cost effectiveness have been thoroughly audited by the CBF in the process leading to our approval. The main statistics can be found at:

[Stichting Climbing the Right Tree | CBF - Toezichthouder Goede Doelen](#)

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