

Some people believe that the MSP should provide nothing more than pencils and paper.

They couldn't be more wrong.

As with organizations such as the *United Nations Commission for Africa*, the *Nelson Mandela Children's Fund*, and *Develop Africa* to name a few, the MSP views technology as a tool to help the Malagasy improve the quality of their lives and fight against poverty. The fact that so many children in Africa do not have access to this vital technology means that the technology gap and other inequalities will continue to widen. The mandate of the MSP is to provide a high quality of education which can include computer sciences. Not only will this lessen the technology gap, but many studies have confirmed that the use of computers can enhance the learning of children.

## One Laptop Per Child

"As the pace of change in the world increases dramatically, the urgency to prepare all children to be full citizens of the emerging world also increases dramatically. The root cause of the rapid change (digital technology) is also the solution



OLPC's answer to this challenge is the **XO laptop**, a children's machine designed for "learning learning." It's **lightweight, extra durable, inexpensive, connected, and is FUN.** Using the XO as both their window on the world, as well as a highly programmable tool for exploring it, children in emerging nations will be opened to both illimitable knowledge and to their own creative and problem-solving potential.

*Wow! Any idea how MSP could get **100** of these XO's?*



**Sure, enter the MSP in the OLPC Africa Corps contest.**

Team up with some American University students & beat out 220 teams from around the world.



**Our American Friends:**  
Sean, Mary, Michael, and Kate.



"We had our parents' meeting on Friday, and it went amazing. It seems that almost all the parents came. I spoke in English, while Mme Raline (the headmistress) translated into Malagasy. The parents, once they realized what was going on, started clapping and smiling. It was fantastic." -Mary

To read more about the team's adventures go to  
**[ampitso.wordpress.com](http://ampitso.wordpress.com)**



# 100 XO laptops deployed July-August 2009



*From left to right. Children sitting in drainage ditch, sitting on steps to Kathy's apartment, & invading Kathy's apartment.*

"THE CHILDREN JUST CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THE COMPUTERS, AND COME AT ALL HOURS OF THE DAY, IN GREAT BANDS, TO USE THEIR COMPUTERS UNTIL THEY RUN OUT OF CHARGE. AND THEN THEY RETURN LATER IN THE DAY FOR ANOTHER GO, WHEN THEY KNOW THEY'LL BE RECHARGED. IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO GET WORK DONE AROUND HERE, BUT LOTS OF FUN." -Kathy Lucking



In computer camp, everyone learned how to use *Write, Distance, Chat, Paint, Speak, Record, Browse, Maze, Sharing, & how to click and drag.*

"Another great thing about the computers is that I think it will help our teachers learn a whole different philosophy for teaching. At this point they see the child as an empty vessel that they have to fill with knowledge. The computers will help them become child centred. They will learn to think of children as creative problem solvers. The computer activities, I believe, will help them respect the children's abilities more and will also lead them to set goals that are more open ended and constructive rather than the children parroting back what they have been told, as they do now." -Kathy Lucking

## *Future Plans?*

The deployment was such a success that the computer program will be a very big part of our program in the years to come. We were lucky to have won our first 100 computers. For the next 100, we'll have to save our pennies. Here is the concept model of the X03 coming out by 2012. Projected costs will be less than \$100/computer.

