

OLPC in Ethiopia

September – October 2008

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The team



- Engineering Capacity Building Program
 - Ethiopian government: Ministry of Capacity Building
- Eskender Andualem is the project manager
- Equivalent of 10 full time staff



Rema deployment

- Amhara region, 6 hours drive
- 500 XO's
- No electricity: laptops supplied with personal solar panels
- Delays in acquiring solar panels

Menelik II deployment

- Addis Ababa, city school
- 2400 XO's (grades 2 through 8)
- Strikingly bare
- Problems with teacher training schedules and engaging the school management



Mulosayoo deployment

- Rural area, 2 hours outside Addis Ababa
- One power socket per classroom
- 675 XO's (grades 2 through 7)
- No lights!
- School runs in two shifts
- No electricity at most homes
- Students previously had no concept of computers









Atse Naod deployment

- Addis Ababa, city school
- 800 XO's, grades 2 through 8
- One broken power socket per classroom
- Children have electricity at home, some have computers already
- Big classes







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XO setup

- Build 708 with fixed Amharic support
- Standard activities
- Akili interactive textbook reader with a few textbooks
- 40+ regional textbooks as PDF
- Short activation leases

Technical challenges

- Preactivated laptops, missing lease features
- Akili textbook reader installation
- Power
- Touchpad
- Power button misuse
- PDF textbook experience is not great
- School server not scalable enough?

Other challenges

- Difficulty sourcing digital textbooks
- No Amharic OCR for digitization
- Government salaries are low
- Old and unmotivated teachers

