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Close The Gap &
Worldloop

CLOSE
THE
GAP

BRIDGING
THE DIGITAL
DIVIDE

10 YEARS

WorldLoop

CHANGING THE E-WASTE CYCLE

ICT4D @ END OF LIFE

At end-of-life, IT equipment can pose serious environmental and health threats as e-waste. Much of the developing world lacks environmentally friendly disposal options for their IT e-waste. Polluting primitive recycling processes are often used to get valuable material out while the toxic and non-valuables are left behind contaminating the ground, air and water.

Close the Gap felt an ethical obligation to help these communities find a solution, and along with a small group of early supporters, founded WorldLoop in 2009. WorldLoop provides local SME's with seed funding, technical assistance and facilitates the environmentally friendly treatment of the hazardous and complex fractions with best available technologies found in Europe that do not exist in Africa today. The safe recycling of ALL (valuable and non-valuable) e-waste fractions has a positive economic, social and environmental return.

Today, WorldLoop has recycled 25% of the volume of Close the Gap's historic e-waste. New projects are even more sustainable with the inclusion of an e-Resource certificate for every asset donated. These certificates help fund the infrastructure development necessary to support sustainable e-waste recycling in these regions.

SUSTAINING "OUTSTANDING" SUCCESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Close the Gap's 10 years of success would not have been possible without the strategic support of corporate partners and its local service partner model. Together, the mission to bridge to the digital divide is closer to being realised with more than 380,000 computers assets donated from over 325 European companies and deployed in 2,900 unique projects in developing countries. Building new local partnerships on the ground ensures greater stability of the IT projects. These partners provide beneficiary projects with a range of services including IT distribution, installation, maintenance and trainings.
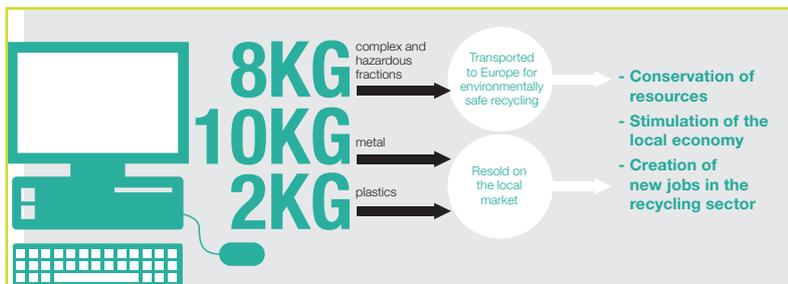
When WorldLoop was founded, new international partnerships were needed with expertise in recycling and take-back processes. Such partners provide operational support, professional services and knowledge. Recupel, the Belgian e-waste takeback system, and Umicore, an end refiner, are two such partners. With such support, WorldLoop has been able to sustain outstanding success, growing from a pilot concept with one project in Kenya to a full-blown organization active in over 7 countries, recycling more than 800 tons e-waste, treating 90 tons of hazardous fractions. This equates to more than 1,000 tons of CO_2 emissions avoided.

8KG complex and hazardous fractions → Transported to Europe for environmentally safe recycling

10KG metal → Resold on the local market

2KG plastics

- **Conservation of resources**
- **Stimulation of the local economy**
- **Creation of new jobs in the recycling sector**

ABOUT GREEN ICT-4-DEVELOPMENT

Information is seen as a major driver of economic and social development. Access to ICT makes information available on an unprecedented scale and reused quality equipment is an affordable option for the Base of the Pyramid.

Close the Gap, founded in 2003, helps bridge the digital divide by giving donated high quality ICT equipment a second life in schools, medical centres, micro-finance institutes and other social projects in developing and emerging countries. The organisation collects decommissioned computers from companies and works with their strategic partner Arrow Value Recovery to ensure the highest standard of equipment refurbishment, including data sanitation and hardware configuration, after which, the assets are delivered to the beneficiary projects.

GREENICT4D, SUSTAINING OUTSTANDING SUCCESS & EFQM

Both Close the Gap and WorldLoop leverage EFQM internally as well as within their partnerships. The framework helps to develop sustainable business cases for strategic win-win partnerships and a management structure to support successful collaborations. EFQM's principles have contributed to a long track record of successful engagements, a few of which even received nationwide recognition including Kauri and Business & Society's 2014 Sustainable Partnership Award for the partnership between WorldLoop and Recupel, as well as the 2013 Belgian Business Awards for the Environment for WorldLoop and Umicore's international engagement in e-waste treatment.

SUSTAINING OUTSTANDING RESULTS