

NAME OF THE PROJECT: **FRENCH WEST AFRICA OUTREACH – FUND 8**

NAME OF THE PROPOSER: **LAURENTINE F. DJATSA**

DATE PROJECT STARTED: **JUNE 2022**

DATE PROJECT COMPLETED: **DECEMBER 2022**

PROJECT LINK: <https://cardano.ideascale.com/c/idea/62429>

LIST OF CHALLENGE KPIS AND HOW THE PROJECT ADDRESSED THEM

1. New users will be introduced to Cardano in Burkina Faso

Through our bi-weekly workshops both online and in person, we were able to introduce hundreds of people to the Cardano blockchain. Our main focus was on university students, young entrepreneurs and developers in Ougadougou and Bobo Dioulasso.

Before the project started, we had already hosted a couple Cardano workshop during which we noticed that many had not even heard about Cardano or even the word Blockchain. But now we have been able to create awareness not only of the existence of Cardano, but also the opportunities the Blockchain holds for the African communities. We presented our participants with the tremendous activities and projects going on in the Cardano community which they received with great amazement and quickly joined by creating a profile on the Project Catalyst Platform and opening a wallet on Yoroi.

2. A space will be provided for French speaking Cardano members to interact

We rented facility in Bobo Dioulasso where workshop sessions are held and where our blockchain developers come for training. Our hub is called Inkuba and our Vision is to train and deploy game changers for Africa. More details will be given on the hub in the video and later in this report. The hub has 3 offices, two classrooms and an open space. We have a regular staff of 4 members, 2 interns, and two developers who assist from time to time. There is also WIFI in the facility.

3. Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso talents will be discovered and connected to Cardano

In collaboration with the Goma hub, a training was offered to 10 developers from our community to learn Haskell and Plutus. They were the very first to ever learn Blockchain development in the country. Two of them had the opportunity to participate in an interview for a six-month paid mentorship programme offered by Lidonation. One of them was retained but due to the language barrier, he was given 6 months to improve his English skills before he can join the programme. He enrolled to our English language course and his English level has improved since then.

4. Quality educational workshops will be provided

We provided quality workshops in Ouagadougou, Dioulasso (Burkina Faso), and in Dakar Senegal. Senegal was not included in our plan for this funded proposal, but as the need arose with the support of Wada and Catalyst School, we organized a workshop in Dakar which led to the creation of a hub. Participants were informed on the opportunities the Cardano Blockchain and project Catalyst offer. We shared with our participants on some of the amazing projects going on in the ecosystem and this contributed to opening their minds to a large scope of possibilities. Participants also learned

about the concept of Blockchain in general and crypto currency. These sessions made participants very curious and eager to join the movement.

5. New member onboarding and proposal submission

As already mentioned earlier, during each of our meetings and in our various community groups on WhatsApp and Instagram as well as our Facebook page, we encouraged participants and members to join the Catalyst community, and to create a wallet on Yoroi, which they did. We also guided some of our members on their proposal submission in fund 9 and we assist others in writing and translating their proposals for fund 10. Some members joined the Catalyst community as Proposal Assessors.

6. 12 successful events will be held in 6 months

We held 12 bi-weekly workshop sessions in addition to 2 major conferences(July and November) As stated earlier, during our workshops, we educated participants on the concept of the Blockchain in general, presented the Cardano blockchain, Project Catalyst and how to participate in the ecosystem, we presented them to some projects and innovations going on in the ecosystem, encouraged them to submit proposal teaching them how to go about it, collaborated with other crypto communities to organise events related to the Blockchain technology. And as mentioned earlier, training sessions for developers to teach them Blockchain development with Haskell and Plutus.)

The reason why we were not able to host 24 workshops is because:

- We found it necessary to equip our hub members who are developers with Blockchain development skills. This was not previously part of our plan. We collaborated with the Goma hub to offer them a 10-week course on Plutus and Haskell.
- Secondly, we noticed that only in person workshops work here, so we only hosted a few online workshops with very poor attendance.

Kindly go through these links and you will find some pictures of our activities we shared on Facebook(we are more active there) and Youtube.

Please

Here are some of the links:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02hSzzj24u79W95xd3k9etkjBQGC3NsPu5sGtP5TubYPjbqLnHVFUbhHYTE8j5YQrl&id=100082960375390&mibextid=Nif5oz

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02CvuQmQrQ29ZJYmrSKu3eEX7uqmxtJByh6XLwxV1aeamKt9SEckJev7VgvbRPyabpl&id=100082960375390&mibextid=Nif5oz

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02hJbGFQxFd1j65ZTpaUiBqhKhvCgtWyHDtfHTjnRR8TSEWgqdP8Tpm6uZF312YJmLI&id=100082960375390&mibextid=Nif5oz

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0Y8QqK32f7J4LFk99msGAFBbWoZGZmRXhtLgh2LaEofAuzq7UdNCE4vGMpRHLWRLrI&id=100082960375390&mibextid=Nif5oz

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid02jLeX4VpdC3YXMQ82U6k7p1C7KXD2x4QS2jDhzBD9J1ceFkro5LFte5jErN6EiR4ul&id=100082960375390&mibextid=Nif5oz

<https://www.facebook.com/inkuba.afrik/posts/pfbid0np9BEsr5JY31bguM8ohAbvZ5cWBLHeCnxKh1g5yCkiTS24Y3JYZ73kBMAFtQYmhal>

<https://www.facebook.com/inkuba.afrik/posts/pfbid0c5eHpSDbkohLbsRi4TEuN5cHPZYRzjg>

[Q5pzgUECNiSb9L8hmUiA9Q8gRQLgRWVWml](https://www.facebook.com/inkuba.afrik/posts/pfbid02oLpzuNPuUJoxAvZEWcarmD5s9UKyokfYqk6NNDJM99tNMgdsNajpw2eSEot9MTMXI)
<https://www.facebook.com/inkuba.afrik/posts/pfbid02oLpzuNPuUJoxAvZEWcarmD5s9UKyokfYqk6NNDJM99tNMgdsNajpw2eSEot9MTMXI>
<https://www.facebook.com/inkuba.afrik/posts/pfbid0zGMg2GWFogncVkJFo48CL8CPPNWLa dczcW3eHsiz17QezJQMBou4L9dhkFxAhP1rl>
<https://www.facebook.com/inkuba.afrik/posts/pfbid02FD3mxe5hMDLQ74SQkfiGiVd8zAQxSi qdq5CQcwLbTh99WwN1LLxX2KcGvnBpW7iCI>
<https://www.facebook.com/inkuba.afrik/posts/pfbid024cXHUzYmaHPzNp1tUbVaJMcF5Ry4y SbS94EDhCMv2sX2pvY4dDCPHiLRZQwhaJSXI>
<https://www.facebook.com/inkuba.afrik/posts/pfbid02AbvMcuZxZJHLMzEXVmkD41hCrhge QNdjYjC6p9mVyreZ6RZXNttwMehiCPAeW2zql>
<https://www.facebook.com/inkuba.afrik/posts/pfbid02XJU4nqoS7yflc9y4c1bew2wQ65dQD MyyVFQUBTC5ajzvV8KsHCH78BztgvUXorK8I>
<https://www.facebook.com/inkuba.afrik/posts/pfbid02dVLCgorrkHmNYXfKbAkmyXEBGaZuf mt6f4hJ8UHAsqV1X7nesXtEaUnTVepBWosdl>
<https://www.facebook.com/inkuba.afrik/posts/pfbid02QydZPKHZZtNzVEYSG6uoHFAutyGW HYisPuNoGn4F1pPa7z9dAksZmfgEobYoNFNJI>
: <https://www.facebook.com/inkuba.afrik/posts/pfbid027NjZVYPFL9Kq3xGzGjgcUAjmtj2uCg NGGiBESabTb2riHk75GeqHDXRmDRjzeqFcl>
<https://www.facebook.com/inkuba.afrik/videos/785142082609994>
<https://www.facebook.com/inkuba.afrik/videos/741984373581171/>
https://youtu.be/ka-rfsHs_wM

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (IN PARTICULAR AROUND COLLABORATION AND ENGAGEMENT)

Several workshops were organized in collaboration with another project funded on French West Africa Outreach.

- Two active hubs were created: Senegal and Burkina Faso
- 10 developers were trained on Haskell and Plutus in a 10-week training course in collaboration with the Goma hub.
- 12 training sessions were organized and they focused on teaching participants how to become a proposal assessor. A major conference was organized in the month of July 2022 with over 200 people in attendance (developers, students, entrepreneurs)
- An opportunity for our developers to participate in a paid mentorship with Lidonation. This was very meaningful for us and we were very encouraged to continue.
- Four proposals submitted by our community members both in Burkina Faso and in Senegal in fund 9.
- A trip to Togo (West Africa) to form a team in order to expand our French West Africa mission.

We can say without any doubt that our effort has also contributed to the Cardano ecosystems in the sense that during each of our meetings, we ensured participants registered on the Ideascale platform and we also ensured they open a wallet on Yoroi.

KEY LEARNINGS

After six full months, I am happy to share some key learnings:

1. The importance of truly believing in what you do, the mandatory need to define your core value. Truly believing in what you do is essential to achieving success. When you have

confidence in yourself and your abilities, you are more likely to take risks and pursue your goals with passion and determination.

2. I also learn that it's important to note that believing in yourself doesn't mean you will never experience self-doubt or failure. It means that you have faith in your ability to learn from mistakes and bounce back stronger.
3. The importance of having one focused team. In today's fast-paced business environment, having a focused team can make all the difference between success and failure. A focused team is one that is aligned with the organization's goals, has a clear understanding of its role, and works towards achieving a common objective.
4. When a team is focused, they are more productive as they work towards a common goal. Each member of the team understands their role and responsibilities, which helps to avoid confusion and duplication of effort.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE PRODUCT OR SERVICE DEVELOPED

While executing our project, we notice that our community members were somehow limited by language barriers and we developed an English course to train 300 young people this year 2023. An institute was created called Inkuba. Our vision is to produce and deploy game changers for Africa, with a particular focus on the French speaking communities. We noticed a big gap in terms of the new technologies, the educational and economic system, and we realized that the language barrier plays a major role in the situation, because most innovations in the world first exist only in English and this causes a very big gap for the French speaking communities

So in order to put more emphasis on the importance of the English language in the French speaking countries, we obtained an accreditation to offer ICM programmes here in Burkina Faso with English as the language of instruction. ICM is the Institute of Commercial Management based in the United Kingdom. This will not only help our students develop their English skills, but it will also give them a competitive advantage on the international Job market place.

FINAL THOUGHTS/COMMENTS

One important challenge we faced was the fact that, initially some people were skeptical about the whole concept of blockchain, but we were able to quickly deal with it by inviting renowned personality in the field of new technologies such as a lecturer from the Nazi Boni University and other influential figures in the country to explain the concept and its potential benefit for entrepreneurs and even for the government, thus winning the trust of many who quickly joined our community. In collaboration with the Wada hub in Ivory coast, in the month of June 2023 another 10-week course on Plutus and Haskell will be launched.

We noticed that some members of our community were also interested in becoming blockchain developers but did not have the basic coding or programming skills required, so we introduced a course on programming with Python that will start soon.

We also offer other training for capacity building such as: WordPress course, Fashion entrepreneurship to help local tailor to modernize their businesses, E-commerce, Digital marketing, Initiation to Blockchain technology et many more

LINKS TO OTHER RELEVANT PROJECT SOURCES OR DOCUMENTS

<https://cardano.ideascale.com/c/idea/62435>