



Case Study: QuickLessons & ACDI/VOCA Enter eLearning Global Giveback2

Barriers of location and time are rapidly dissolving thanks to the increased availability of eLearning applications. Now for the second year, powerful eLearning solutions are gaining accelerated reach for global good through the **eLearning Global Giveback Competition**. The Global Giveback competition was created jointly by [The eLearning Guild](#) and [LINGOs](#). The competition represents an opportunity for the eLearning community to help create positive change by donating their eLearning development expertise for the benefit of LINGOs member organizations. LINGOs' members include over 55 NGO's (nongovernmental organizations) working for causes such as international development, conservation and social justice, and humanitarian relief. Some of the organizations belonging to LINGOs include Care, Habitat for Humanity, Oxfam, Save the Children, and The Nature Conservancy. These organizations, in turn, are able to disseminate leadership content created through the competition, providing high quality learning experiences that would otherwise have been unavailable to people working in the field. The eLearning Guild is the ideal partner for this competition. With over 41,500 members worldwide, it is a respected resource for information, networking, and community for eLearning professionals.



[ACDI/VOCA](#), a LINGOS member, is participating in the contest for the second year. Its mission is to promote economic opportunities for cooperatives, enterprises, communities, and individuals through the innovative application of sound business practice. ACDI/VOCA is distinguished by its commitment to overseas beneficiaries, wise stewardship of development resources and a knowledgeable, experienced, diverse, and effective team. ACDI/VOCA has long been recognized for its high caliber, on-the-ground trainings and extension services in emerging market countries. Partnering with [QuickLessons](#), an eLearning content platform, they developed the course, "How to Design a Team Building Workshop," to share with the larger NGO community. As a leading provider of rapid eLearning development solutions, QuickLessons' platform provides an online collaborative environment for users to develop high quality, Flash-based courses leveraging an extensive library of templates and out-of-the-box development processes.

NGOs need highly committed and efficient teamwork to make the most of limited resources.

All organizations, especially NGOs which, as not-for-profit organizations, rely on critically limited resources, need to ensure that teams are cohesively organized to capitalize on time and effort expended. Having a clear understanding of team operations at the outset of a project can add to commitment, motivation, and improved communication within teams. For an organization such as ACDI/VOCA, which has such a high volume of simultaneously operating projects spanning the globe, team-building is even more critical. As noted by John Leary, Director of Training at ACDI/VOCA, "New working teams form to lead projects every day. Their success depends greatly on the ability of team members to collaborate and work together effectively. The challenge is greater when teams consist of different cultures and diverse backgrounds. Every new manager and new hire will benefit from this team building design course."



ACDI/VOCA favors expandable, replicable methods and local ownership as part of its Stewardship of Development Resources initiative, which places emphasis on broad-based participation and alliances with the private sector and other partners. Partnering with QuickLessons addresses these stewardship goals, as the methodology—collaborating on course development through the QuickLessons cloud-based platform—can easily be reproduced by other LINGOs organizations that wish to create and share courses on any topic.

Online Collaboration

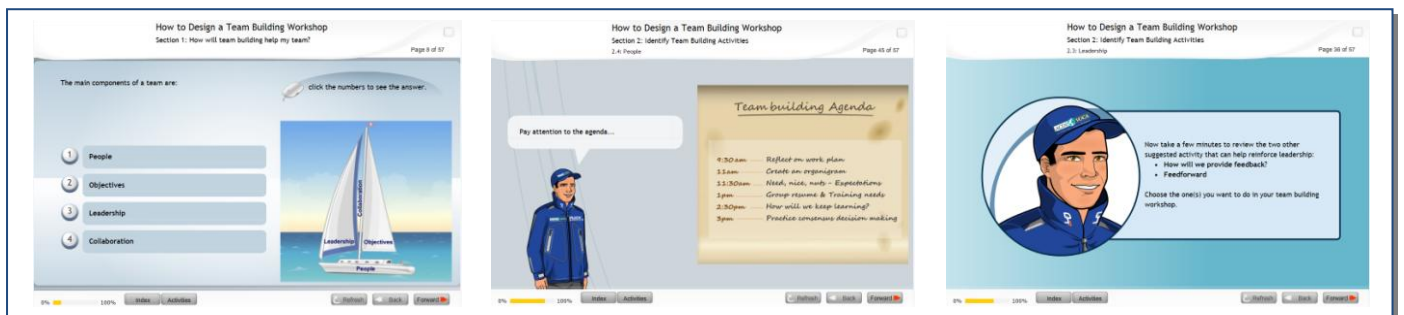
A key to the successful development of the course was diligent pre-planning. At the onset of the partnership, Leary prepared a list of potential course topics that would address training needs for project managers worldwide. His list identified an engaging, generic way of presenting the topic of *team building* so all LINGOs member agencies and others could use the course.

With a topic selected, the course “How to Design a Team Building Workshop” began to emerge with the help of QuickLessons staff. QuickLessons' online collaboration platform enabled seamless interaction of often-traveling global team members, including QuickLessons designers/developers based in Brazil, a team leader in Florida, and the ACIDI/VOCA subject matter expert in Washington, D.C.

“I was able to quickly familiarize myself with the QuickLessons interface and immediately contribute to the design process,” says Leary. “We quickly visited the self-help tutorials in the beginning, but once we saw how to navigate the index, inserting and modifying scenes and exercises were self-explanatory.”

QuickLessons’ built-in course review feature streamlined the review process. During the development process, a QuickLessons designer invited ACIDI/VOCA with a link to review each slide’s content. ACIDI/VOCA then provided feedback on each slide and clicked a button to notify designers that the review was complete. QuickLessons’ review options allow for multiple reviewers to participate either simultaneously or in succession.

Leary noted that the online platform allows members of the team to reuse elements, and ACIDI/VOCA can continue to update content over time. Moreover, because the course is web-based, it is accessible for updating or viewing anywhere. “QuickLessons is especially useful for developing courses when content originates from the field and requires field staff to provide feedback throughout the development process,” says Leary.



Returns Realized

The successful collaboration of ACIDI/VOCA’s eLearning course, “How to Design a Team Building Workshop,” has been formally recognized: The course was named a finalist in the Corporate Developer category of the eLearning Global Giveback Competition. (Winners will be announced March 24 at the eLearning Guild’s Learning Solutions Conference and Expo in Orlando, Florida.)

“We are thrilled to have such a useful tutorial readily available for our broad range of new project leaders and department managers,” says Maura Bookter, ACIDI/VOCA’s Director of Staff Development. “This is an interactive, visually appealing learning resource that simplifies the team building process.”

“We hope this experience and the courses that are generated motivate additional volunteers, agencies, and partners to participate in future Global Giveback experiences,” notes Alfredo Leone, Managing Director of QuickLessons.” He adds, “We are happy to participate as the content tool that delivers this team building course to LINGOs members. QuickLessons can be used to share knowledge and train people remotely, at their convenience,” says Leone. “It’s easy to use and all LINGOs members now have access to it. We’re enthusiastic about also encouraging people to use QuickLessons’ free Facebook platform, which can benefit not-for-profit organizations worldwide.”