

COMMUNITY DRIVEN ICT NETWORKS: RWANDA PERSPECTIVE

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AGENDA

- *Role of ICT in local context*
- *How ICT can play its role*
- *Community's capacity/ability to develop local enterprise*
- *The cost and income to generate*
- *Key policy initiatives to make this a reality*

1. Role of ICT in local context: Nyamata case study

- *Agriculture sector:*
 - *Weather forecast ;*
 - *Crop prices ;*
 - *Information on sowing seeds in a certain season ;*
 - *Popularization of modern agriculture ;*
 - *Marketing local products ;*
 - *Interactions with other agriculturists and farmers ;*
 - *Money transfer (through Western Union, ...).*

1. Role of ICT in local context (cont.)

- *Education Sector:*
 - *Exchange of information among stakeholders*
 - *Elaboration and exchange of official documents*
 - *Supporting modern Teaching/learning environment*
 - *Exchange knowledge and consultative decision-making*
 - *Continuing education*
 - *Combating Illiteracy*
 - *E-Documentation.*

1. Role of ICT in local context (cont.)

- *Health Sector:*
 - *Support preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care (example: Rwanda TRAC net dynamic IT solution)*
 - *Support public health campaign*
 - *Tele-Medicine applications in support of rural hospitals and health centers*
 - *Continuing training for Medical care staff*

1. Role of ICT in local context (cont.)

- *Business Sector:*
 - *Business Development services to support entrepreneurship and promote business opportunities*
 - *Exchange of information with potential suppliers/customers*
 - *Marketing local products (example: Maraba coffee)*
 - *Access to market prices*
 - *Consultative decision-making*
 - *Interacting with Rwanda revenue authority*
 - *Combating bureaucracy*
 - *Keeping updated accounting information*
 - *Reducing travel cost*

2. How ICTs can do this?

- *The set up will be as follows:*

=> a backhaul link will be negotiated with the main Telecom operators (MTN through Wi Max or Terracom through CDMA / EVDO)

=> The Hub Center to be located near the District Office

=> At least 20 points of access (with VOIP sets) to be connected around Nyamata Town (NGOs, Health centers, Schools, local govt offices, local business associations)

2. How ICTs can do this (Cont'd)?

- *The governance Model will be as follows:*
 - => Governing Board made up by community representatives*
 - => Management Team headed by an appointed Business Manager with targeted goals*
 - => Small technical team to support both the Hub center and remote access points.*

3. Community's capacity/ability in developing local enterprise

- Local forms of entrepreneurship;*
- Micro-credit and micro finance initiatives;*
- Among the community there are educated people (teachers, local leaders, health personnel, university students,...), who can play a big role in creating contents, establishing ICT-based business,...*
- Support needed is expected to come from the Government, business organizations (RPSF, CAPMER,...) and donors;*
- Existence of a Nyamata telecenter stimulates the community's interest to create more other ICT initiatives.*

4. The cost and income to generate

- *Interaction with the Telcos (MTN, TERACOM, ARTEL) suggests we initiate a partnership model to make the prices of connectivity cheaper (using open access concept);*
- *Utilizing existing pilots of alternative sources of energy (no cost yet);*
- *Option of using existing facilities (district structures, cooperatives, ...);*
- *Partnership with existing Higher Learning Institutions (KIST, NUR, ...).*

5. Some of the major ongoing initiatives to make this a reality

- PRSP is Rwanda's answer to poverty reduction and economic growth. With the coming EDPRS, we need to make sure that ICT is mainstreamed as a crosscutting in the various socio economic sectors.
- The Rwandan NICI plans (second phase to be launched soon with special focus on rural development) constitutes a policy instrument that combine Network infrastructure Development and services/applications development. The NICI process is expected to catalyse socio economic development as a whole provided that a suitable open access concept combines with bottom up approach (community based orientation) are taken care of to empower the poor with information to make informed decisions.

5. Some of the major ongoing initiatives to make this a reality (cont'd)

- The Rwanda Information and Technology Authority (RITA) has just launched a tender to establish 12 Multi purpose community Tele centres as part of the government policy to provide ICT access and services to rural community as well as deploying government service delivery in remote areas.
- The Rwanda Private Sector Federation will soon establish Business development services centres around the country to support entrepreneurship and promote business opportunities and capacity building.
- The government in consultation with telecom operators is developing a national plan for network infrastructure development (electrogaz fiber optic, Karisimbi project, MTN Fiber backbone, Terracom Fiber Network)
- .The government of Rwanda through RITA has donated a whole building to established an ICT Park that is going to attract local and foreign IT companies to support the implementation of the NICI Plan 2010.



Thank you for your
attention