

BCO Reporting
 Reporting period: **January – June, 2005**
 Organisation: **OWSA, OW Africa UMAL**

Purpose of the BCO Alliance is to investigate, mobilise and support key ICT4D opportunities that impact poverty.

Outcomes	<i>This quarter's activities – short description</i>	<i>3 Key lessons and implication for the BCO work</i>	3 key successes and implication for the BCO work	<i>Collaborations in support of activity – with both BCO and non-BCO partners</i>	<i>Snapshot next quarter activity(ies)</i>
<p>①</p> <p>ICD has been mainstreamed in development sector</p>	<p>1. OW conducted a regional level event in South Asia in March 2005 bringing over 500 and odd experts from the private sector, the government and the civil society to discuss the modalities of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and identifying the role of ICTs for achieving specific targets under the various MDGs were exchanged as means to alleviating poverty in the region. The forum also reiterated the need for fostering COPs to encourage prop-poor ICT and development policies in the region.</p> <p>(The workshop well appreciated by the stakeholders has been mailed to the participants and other key stakeholders in the region. The report has also been made available online)</p> <p>The Congo Brazzaville consultative meeting organised in Africa in collaboration with local partners attracted 30 participants drawn from a cross sections of organisations, government, private ICT institutions. The Congo meeting managed to unite and bring together government, private sector and international development agencies to share ideas about the role of ICT in the critical areas of national development.</p> <p>The Uganda consultative meeting held in Africa in collaboration with Women of Uganda Network WoughNet, reviewed and reassessed the country's progress and commitment in Mainstreaming ICT in the development strategies with special focus on the WSIS declaration. (The report was widely circulated amongst it partners)</p> <p>The Zambia multi stakeholder consultative meeting with the</p>	<p>Broadly, following are the three key lessons:</p> <p>1. There is willingness amongst the multi-stakeholder to work together and OW is facilitating the process.</p> <p>2. More rigorous methodology needs to be worked out in order to measure the impact of ICD in development areas.</p> <p>3. The MDGs are seen as broadest minimum goals. And attempts will have to be made to internalise the targets set out in the MDG framework, and stricter yardsticks</p>	<p>1. The Annual Regional (ARM) meeting of OW in South Asia provided a preliminary appraisal of the progress of the MDGs, of leaks in the process and the future strategies. And it was also an opportunity for OW to consolidate its identify as a pro-poor grassroots communication organisations.</p> <p>2. It established the fact that OW is a platform organisations with capacity to convene MSP with a view to achieving the MDG.</p> <p>3. The Congo</p>	<p>1. OW to achieve the BCO objectives is working in collaboration with the following Partners: Panos East Africa, Panos Southern Africa, Panos South Asia, Panos London, GKP, Hivos, IICD, APC, UNESCO, SDC, Oxfam, UN Millennium Campaign, MISA, AMARC, Woughnet, UNDP, SAFIRA, ALIN, NASSCOM, MSSRF, Datamation, Drishtee, Transparency International</p>	<p>a) OW would be initiating alliances with organisations that would contribute to the cause of the MDGs, to help them launch and run effective media campaign. This would include campaign trails by Action Aid Asia and the National Social watch in South Asia called Vada na thodein (Don't break promises) Africa and UMAL too follow suit.</p>

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	<p>Chipata District Women's Development Association to share ideas on the role of ICTs (DWDA) resulted in an innovative ICT initiative called the "Chipata Mobile project"</p> <p>2. OW facilitating National meetings on Mission 2007: The Secretariat housed at OW office in New Delhi, has facilitated development of CoPs based on the MSP model, on Mission 2007 in States of India. It took the lead in putting together such a CoP in Rajasthan, India. It has also produced and published reports on the outcomes of the multi-stakeholder consultations. It has also developed and runs, a website and two mailing lists on Mission 2007.</p> <p>4. OW in South Asia co-organised a three-day Regional ICT Policy consultation in January 5-7, 2005 Dhaka, Bangladesh from, in collaboration the its two partners - Bangladesh Friendship Education Society, (BFES) and Association for Progressive Communications (APC): OW had invited experts from Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and India, besides Bangladesh, to provide country perspectives on the National ICT Policy issues and to discuss how these can be made pro-poor.</p> <p>5. Publications: a) OW has undertaken to advise the stakeholders on how ICTs could be mainstreamed, mainly from the perspectives of the policy-makers and the practitioners on the ground. The newsletter, Mainstreaming ICTs, focussing on the issues around the MDGs help the stakeholders in their planning process. The four issues brought out thus far, attracted a good response. The issues are accessible online at: http://www.digitalopportunity.org/article/archive/7613/?preview=1</p> <p>The OW online newsletters from Africa, South Asia and UMAL on over 20 thematic issues around the MDGs goes out to 12, 00 partner organisations and a large number of individual subscribers.</p> <p>b) OW has also conducted a grassroots survey at WSIS Prepcom II to understand the involvement of grassroots communities and their representatives in the WSIS process. The report of this exercise is</p>	<p>are to be applied to alleviate poverty in the region.</p> <p>Some specific Lessons :</p> <p>In the consultative meetings held in Africa it emerged that the long standing mistrust between the NGOs and the Government is still continuing in many African countries. Hence there is a need for more cross sectoral meetings that would bring together the government and the civil society for more closer interaction.</p> <p>People in Africa need to be mobilised, resources found, goals set and implemented and there was a general consensus amongst all that the NGOs are best in mobilising</p>	<p>meeting came up with recommendations to govt demanding a restart of the stalled ICT policy process. One of the high points of the meeting was that the UNDP representative also offered to provide expertise and other logistical support to the process.</p> <p>-The Zambia consultative meeting set rolling a multi stakeholder project to improve earnings through sale of agriculture products for rural women. It also resulted in the "Chipata Mobile project" initiative---this particular project is in partnership with OW, Celtel, a mobile service provider in Africa, Food Reserve Agency in Africa and the Chipata District Women's</p>	<p>chapter, ICT agency in Sri Lanka, National Informatic Centre (NIC), IDRC, OSIWA, British Council, BFES, Plan International. Besides there are 1200 partner organisation with whom OW works on various .</p> <p>Specific examples The Annual Regional meeting collaborated with 500 development professional, including 82 from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Among other issues of promoting good governance, Education for empowerment, health, water and sanitation,</p>	<p>b) Conduct two regional wide study on the role of ICD in the fight against poverty in Africa.</p> <p>c) Additionally a workshop to sensitise young parliamentarians on the need for community radio has also been planned in the forthcoming months.</p> <p>e) Regional consultative meetings on the role of ICD on poverty in Mozambique.</p> <p>e) Mission 2007 models would be taken to Sri Lanka and Nepal.</p> <p>f) Facilitating grassroots caucus recommendations to be</p>

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	<p>being released shortly.</p> <p>c) Producing a paper on “Taking ICTs to every Indian Village: Opportunities an Challenges”. This paper analyses various social, economic and technological constraints in setting up the info-kiosks and means to overcome the challenges.</p> <p>6. Under the support structure of Ek- duniya platform that has been set up as a multilingual web-hosting and communication platform for the voluntary and non-profit sector in South Asia, OW technical team have been lending their expertise over phone, e-mail and onsite training programmes to help different grassroots organisation develop their own websites.</p> <p>7. OW has been encouraging innovation in the use of ICD for sustainable development. In this context it has initiated in South Asia the process of Google for grassroots called EK Duniya for Grassroots (ED4G) initiative. The initiative proposes to involve the academia, the government, the private sector and the NGOs to brainstorm on the following issues:</p> <p>a) Electronic Data Acquisition and sharing b) Framework to describe knowledge c) Content conversion services d) Make consolidated knowledge accessible to the people</p>	<p>people for more pro-poor ICT policies.</p> <p>.</p> <p>Africa also need to encourage staff and its key partners to take up lessons in other African languages to effectively tackle complex issues of poverty in the African regions.</p> <p>In support of the Mission 2007 initiative of creating telecentres in every village, OW needs to encourage the development of the local content in local languages.</p> <p>Much of this potentially useful knowledge is widely dispersed in 'information islands' out of reach of all the communities that might make use of it. The information is held in a wide range of formats - electronic as</p>	<p>Association, Africa. This alliance is the first concrete result of the multi-stakeholder consultations held under BCO.</p> <p>-The immediate outcome of the Uganda consultative meeting was the decision to mandate one of the grassroots African organisation to coordinate all activities of the forthcoming WSIS prepcom meeting</p> <p>-In the regional ICT policy consultation in Dhaka, the South Asian regional countries for the first time talked about regional issues linked to the Information society. This was taken forward in the form of</p>	<p>the professionals highly deliberated on the issues of sustainable livelihood and poverty reduction.</p> <p>OW is increasingly becoming aware of the need to increase its activities in North and west Africa. Towards this effort OW has partnred with The Ghana HIPC WATCH, whose mandate is to engage civil society in poverty reduction strategies.</p> <p>3. The regional</p>	<p>included in the WSIS policy process.</p> <p>g) In a three day PRA workshop voices of 250 knowledge workers to reach the policy makers</p> <p>h) A one day workshop on the technical consultation for developing a holistic technology framework for addressing specific issues</p> <p>i) A two day workshop to be organised on generating content based on community needs .</p> <p>J). Publications on mainstreaming ICTs: Forthcoming issues of</p>

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		<p>well as in non-electronic – photographs, graphic images, paper documents et. al. – which presents inherent difficulty in consolidation. The majority of the information is not available in the local languages that the communities who might benefit from it use. Communities that might make use of this information often have little or no access to computers or the Internet. Thus providing the information in an accessible form and providing easy means to locate information are also key to unlocking the value of the knowledge.</p>	<p>Dhaka declaration presented at the Geneva PrepCom, SAARC summit and other relevant international forums.</p> <p>- Local content generations in the OKN pockets has taken pace. Community newspaper with local information brought out by OKN partners.</p>	<p>consultation in Dhaka, Bangladesh was done in collaboration the its two partners - Bangladesh Friendship Education Society, (BFES) and Association for Progressive Communications (APC).</p> <p>Over 60 participants representing the government, civil society, private sector, academia and the media from the South Asian region, attended the consultation to discuss on the National Policy issues and how these can be made prop-poor.</p>	<p>MICT: Child Rights (July – Aug. 2005) Governance (Sep. – Oct. 2005) Disaster Management (Nov.-Dec. 2005)</p>

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<p>Stronger voice and debate enabled by ICT4D (ICD)</p>	<p>1. A number of activities have been initiated towards building capacity of grassroots communities by OW: Training of the grassroots communities in audio tools have resulted in contributing to a few initiatives .</p> <p>OW has been spearheading the Ek-Duniya in South Asia to set up a multilingual web-hosting and communication platform for the voluntary and non-profit sector in South Asia. This is being delivered on ASP model, in technical collaboration with Mahiti Infotech Pvt. Ltd., India and using an open source content management system – Plone.</p> <p>Duniya facilitates grassroots communities and civil society organisations to host content on the web in local language and use this platform for developmental communication and advocacy.</p> <p>The current implementation of Ek-Duniya entails creation of dynamic web-pages using custom designed content architecture & templates; hosting of English & Indic language content. Ek-Duniya solution is presently being developed for a cluster of CSOs across India, Bangladesh and Sri-Lanka.</p> <p>A consultative meeting in Zambia on the role of ICT in development resulted in an innovative ICT initiative called the “Chipata Mobile project”.</p> <p>In the follow up of the Zambia consultative meeting, under the Chipata Women mobile project, training on the use of mobile phones was imparted to the Chipata DWDA. Moreover women from an association of women in the eastern province of Zambia meet to agree and formulate actions to encourage audio content generation.</p> <p>OW has developed training modules on ICTs. They are:</p> <p>a) The use of ICT tools in the fight for Human Rights issue.</p> <p>b) ICTs for grassroots women on audio content production.</p>	<p>1 In developing and implementing national e-strategies, stakeholders should take into considerations the grassroots needs and concerns. And rigorous attempts to measure the grassroots voice and local content in national and regional development processes</p> <p>2. The mainstreaming of grassroots concerns are happening thru intermediary agents, it is therefore important to mainstream their experiences in national, region pro-poor policies. Promote development of technologies, applications and content suited to the grassroots needs.</p> <p>3. It's important to build/strengthen grassroots broadcasters' network thru peer to peer learning and linkages with mainstream media orgs. deve</p>	<p>1. In the recent months, partners of OW have requested for more than 16 training events on development communication; shown interest to act as OKN hubs and expressed a desire to produce elearning courseware on ICT tools and techniques.</p> <p>2. A number of organisations have shown interest to partner with OW for ICT based capacity building initiatives among the grassroots, especially through participatory audio techniques and by producing radio programmes aired through mainstream and community radio stations.</p> <p>3.Has engineered the process of</p>	<p>Under the community Radio programme initiative NGOS have shown their interest in collaborating with OW.</p> <p>2. Ek Duniya multilingual web hosting and omunication platform for NGOs in South Asia is being done in technical consultation with Mahiti Infotech Pvt Ltd., India.</p> <p>3. In collaboration with Plan International, India and other NGO, OW is collecting the local voices in their local language.</p>	<p>1.Website hosting training programmes are scheduled in coming months.</p> <p>2. Exploring online techniques for deliberating on gender issues.</p> <p>Linking grassroots audio broadcasters with the mainstream organisations.</p> <p>Under the Ek-Duniya Ek Awwaz initiative in South Asia, OW would be producing audio programmes for the grassroots organisations.</p> <p>OW to conduct a seminar in collaboration with BITs Pillani, Rajasthan, India, on “Entrepreneurship Culture: Issues and challenges of small and internediate Entrepreneurs at Grassroots level.</p>

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	<p>c) Basic ICT skills for NGOs (a technical module)</p> <p>Grassroots caucus site made operational, D-group initiated and planning work for organising regional meetings in India and Africa started</p> <p>2. Work towards creating a poverty channel in OW Portal. The model site is being developed by OW in South Asia is accessible at: http://southasia.oneworld.net/article/archive/6867/?preview=1</p> <p>3. Through initiatives like <i>Ek Duniya Awaaz (One World One Voice)</i> and <i>Ek Duniya Kai Kahaniyan (One World Many Stories)</i>, OW in Southh Asia has been effectively trying to capture the voice of the voiceless.</p> <p>Using Storytelling as a methodology, OW has developed a programme that would enable grassroots communities and individual stalwarts in grassroots communities to narrate their situation in a story format with a view to bringing their issues, concerns and ideas to the attention of those who govern them.</p> <p>The process of collecting the voices in their local language by the community reporters to be called Ek Duniya Fellows, is being streamlined, by building partnership with various civil society organisations like Plan International, India and many others. OW is not only handholding in drawing a curriculum for providing training to these fellows, but is also building their capacity on various issues of community mobilisation, communication skills , the use of various digital tools in connecting communities and empowering people.</p> <p>-Worked with Self Employed Women's Association in Ahmedabad, India, in their ability to produce a video documentary on ICT issues as a support to Mission 2007 initiative of the National Alliance of ICTs – a programme supported by OW in South Asia.</p>		<p>taking the grassroots women to the international forum so that their voices are incorporated in the policy recommendations.</p>		<p>Video conference on MDG plus five review with development policy makers in metros in India.</p> <p>A meeting with ABS scholars on Mission 2007.</p>

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	<p>Also, to take the grassroots voices and concerns directly to key international policy making platforms, OW took four grassroots women to WSIS PrepCom II in Geneva, February 2005. The grassroots women presented a Grassroots Charter on WSIS to the Civil Society plenary and the Official UN Plenary. Also, they mooted the idea of setting up a Grassroots Caucus to inform and sensitise international policy makers on issues that are of concern to the grassroots communities. This was endorsed by the Civil Society plenary following which OW is facilitating the setting up of such a Caucus in the run up to PrepCom III and WSIS II in Tunis.</p> <p>1. Community Radio initiative: OW recently launched its audio studio in Delhi office. The programmes are made on Information, Education and Entertainment (IEE) format for making it more palatable to the grassroots communities.</p> <p>-Has entered into an agreement with the All India Radio, Government of India, to avail of the free half an hour airtime for five days a week to broadcast its programmes.</p> <p>Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), India, has also extended its offer to broadcast OW's programmes.</p> <p>-Capacity Building among community based organisations in the use of audio tools as a means for social and economic empowerment.</p> <p>-In the process of starting advocacy centres with mini audio studios for recording the voices of community.</p> <p>5. Discussion list on poverty issues</p> <p>Among the many discussion list, the two discussions that contributed to the understanding of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> reservation for the <i>dalits</i> in private sector and the sustainability aspects of infokiosks, have had the direct pro-poor focus. While the former is still continuing (http://www.dgroups.org/groups/Reservation4dalits), the second one had led to the publication of a report that aided the deliberations at the Mission 2007 meeting in July 2004 (http://www.digitalopportunity.org/article/view/98967/1/) <p>The report, well circulated and accepted brought out the rationale for</p>				

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	<p>the need to collaborate and scale up in order to sustain the infokiosk movement in South Asia. The SSC (Sustainability, Scalability and Collaboration) framework suggested by OW has been the centric theme for the Mission 2007 initiative.</p> <p>OW carried out a discussion group on Child Rights which coincided with the international day of the child. The discussion was carried out in collaboration with Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (RAPCAN), Africa. (The findings have been submitted as a report to the Regional Consultations on the Yokohama for all the UNICEF regions).</p> <p>OW has also carried out two discussion forums on Freedom of Expression. One was in French and the other was in English.</p> <p>6. South -South Travelling workshops: South-to-south learning exchange programme was organised for grassroots organisations from Africa and Asia who are using various forms of ICTs as an effective tool for social and economic development. ARAVIS, TERI and MSSRF from India and Eastern province Women's Development Association, Zambia, Mazumbuka Community Radio station, Zambia, KFM, Uganda, Kubataba and SAFIRE, Zimbabwe from Africa participated in the exchange programme.</p> <p>Partnership: Continuing activities of networking, building and maintaining partnerships, and participating in partner events. In this quarter OW has added near about 300 partners.</p>				
Poverty impact of ICT4D (ICD)	<p>1. Badarpur project and the Pondicherry frame work: Currently, OW is involved in an action research project which aims to build pro-poor public service feed back systems. The project site is the Badarpur Maternity Hospital in New Delhi, India under serves a nearby</p>	<p>1. The need to develop a skill base among the poor for effectively participating and benefiting from e-</p>			<p>1. Produce a report on the pro-poor public service feed back systems.</p>

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<p>evaluated and disseminated to key development audiences</p>	<p>slum of about 9,000 people. The evaluation exercise for the India chapter of the Badarpur-DIFID project underlined the participatory approach. The Focussed Group Discussion (FGD) method and face to face interviews and observation were some of the techniques employed.</p> <p>2. Second day of the OW ARM organised in South Asia in the month of March had had parallel thematic sessions on e-governance and on women's participation to accelerate the pace of development. There were a number of instances discussed where ICTs and e-governance initiatives had increased efficiency of services.</p> <p>3. Bottom up-Governance Barometer for South Asia: OW in collaboration with Public Affairs Foundation (Bangalore, India), the National Chapters of Transparency International (Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) and BRAC (Bangladesh) has initiated a research project on developing a "Bottom up-Governance Barometer for South Asia". The research project is intended to develop an alternative set of indicators, specific to the South Asia region, that provide a qualitative counterpoint to the existing hard targets pertaining to the MDGs.</p> <p>4. Highlighted ICD best practices from South Asia, Africa and UMAL on the Digital Opportunity Channel (DO): The Channel has been undergoing a revamp process from an Information Channel to a Knowledge Portal with a focus on Mainstreaming ICTs into development initiatives, with special emphasis being laid on the MDG themes. DO is now focusing a lot more on sourcing of original content based on the above framework. The initial phase of the revamp process, in terms of the new Structure and Content Architecture has been finalised. Some key articles and best practices have been featured in the ICT and Food Security as well as the ICT and Health sections so far. Work on the other sections like ICT and Gender, ICT and Education is also under way.</p> <p>5. OW has developed participatory methodology to evaluate the access, use and appropriation of ICTs and Internet in social Organisations. A three-day workshop in Central America attended by 81 participants from 58 different organisations</p>	<p>governance. This is important as e-governance is not accessible at local levels.</p> <p>2. Bring about an appropriation level in access and use of ICTs and more importantly its strategic use. More over people still view the use of the ICTs at an individual level and look for individual rather than collective strategies for the incorporation of technology and internet in whatever they do.</p> <p>It important for institutions and agents majoring in research work to create more opportunities for local experts to participate in the research work leading to measuring the impact of ICD on poverty.</p>			<p>2. Research paper on MSP based model as an alternative to the entrepreneurship model for running the OKN centres.</p> <p>To publish papers on how ICD impact development in Latin America.</p>

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	shared experiences on the impact ICTs has had in their organisations. (to disseminate the publications of the methodology and workshop results to the partners and policy makers in the next quarter)				