

BCO Reporting

Reporting period: January – June 2007

Organisation: OneWorld Africa.

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

Outcomes	<i>This quarter's activity(ies) – short description</i>	<i>3 Key lessons and implications for the BCO work</i>	<i>3 key successes and implications for the BCO work</i>	<i>Collaborations in support of activity – with both BCO and non-BCO partners</i>	<i>Snapshot next quarter activity(ies)</i>
ICD has been mainstreamed in development sectors	Final launch of the Zambian ICT Policy by the President, OWA participated in the launch	The adoption and launch of the policy gives us the entry point engage with the ministry in charge on issues of access in particular	The political will from the top most office is what we lobbied for and makes it easier to push the govt departments to act.	IICD	Publicising, and simplifying the policy to our rural partners so that they can also lobby for ICT services in their areas
	Online Discussion on the implementation of the ICT Policy held resolutions gathered to be included in submission to Govt	Discussion forums are still an important tool to network amongst CSOs and also to get to a common stand particularly when dealing with policy issues	The discussion forum provided a rationale for OWA to convene a broader seminar to validate the contributions for the online discussion	SDC, IICD through Ebrain, DGIS, DFID	Continue online discussions on monitoring implementation
	One day seminar to get civil society in put into the implementation plan of the ICT policy.	Provides scope for monitoring and also opens the door for follow up on access issues	Our approach made it easy for govt to actually solicit our input into the document	SDC, Ebrain, IICD	Follow up to make sure our submissions are taken on board in the final document
	Malaria Foundation in collaboration with OWA using ICT to combat malaria In two provinces	The lessons learnt can do a lot to show how ICTs can practically be used to fight the number one deadly killer in Africa	The pilot phase it done and the funders want it scaled up to other parts of the country	ZMF, CHAZ, USAID, DGIS	Scaling up the project to other parts of the country
	The MP leadership project in Using ICTs to improve HIV/AIDS service provision	Practical examples of ordinary people using ICTs for HIV/AIDS proves to govt that ICTS should be mainstreamed in all areas	OWA was the only grantee using ICTs in the project and was hailed as the best of the grantees in the programme	PACT, USAID, National Assembly	Scaling up to other countries
	E-learning Conference, OWA presented a paper as well as exhibition showing importance of mainstreaming	The Ministry of education is a key	As a result of out presentation,	Ebrain, IICD,	Try to get broadband for more schools on

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	ICTs in education. The meeting was officiated by the Minister in Education	partner in the initiatives we have on education and are quite progressive on the issue	Africonnect offered free broadband for schools on our programme.		our programme
	Survey into how much civil society is involved in ICT policy in Congo Brazzaville	There is very little involvement from CSOs in this area and further very few working in the area	There is scope for work and collaboration from those doing policy work in BCO	AZUR, DGIS	National discussion on this issue
Stronger voice and debate enabled by ICT4D (ICD)	Advocacy centres set up in 10 rural areas	These centres can be used for any other issues that affect the communities, when ICTs are not the focus but one of the means to address felt needs, the communities accept them more easily	Combination of ICTs old and new are employed in the centers and the focus is more on advocacy rather than the tools and so the people do not feel intimidated	SDC, BCO	Expand and enhance the centres
	Needs assessments on grassroots ICT needs held in Congo Brazzaville, Mozambique, Zambia and Mali	The needs are common but also very specific to countries	Most rural communities know about computers but are still at very basic if any levels of internet awareness	SDC	Respond to issues from the needs assessments
	Several training sessions were held with various rural groups as well as NGOs and journalists on audio production for advocacy, content production, ICT tools for development, web 2.0 In several countries	Most people appreciate the training but it usually opens up issues of how to access the tools for them to apply their skills	Shorter practical trainings on very specific issues are more appreciated and popular.	SDC, DGIS	Equipping the centres and more training of the committees.
	Audio content swapping through the Community	Other BCO partners who have audio	Teachers are OWA had had some challenges		Construction of the

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	Radio Management Team (CRMT) a network of radio managers from Africa, Latin America and Asia.	partners can network with this group to share content.	with the technical platform for radio under OWIF but a more user friendly system is under construction with OWSA.		new CMS for audio content
	Research and discussions with Celtel to get mobile technology cheaper to Isoka East where there is no power on internet.	If there are such experiences amongst BCO partners in how to get cheaper technology to remote areas who have no electricity and telephone lines on internet they can be shared.	The community have demanded for this service and are engaged in some income generation activities to pay for the service when it becomes available.	SDC	Operationalising the cheaper system if viable.
	Training of rural women in audio production and linking them to community broadcasters for purposes of producing malaria content in the community	Radio is still a viable ICT in development in rural areas and a lot needs to be done to integrate it in other modern tools.	Several radio programmes on malaria was produced by the women and have been aired on local radios.	USAID, ZMF, SDC	Community discussions on the issues raised in the programmes will take place. Evaluation of the programme and scaling up will also take place..
	A scaling up of rural content distributed through the OWA channels, OWA Edition, OWR, AIDS channel. The French channel was revived through OWA partner AZUR.	Content from other BCO partners particularly on HIV/AIDS and malaria would be welcome for sharing		OWA partners, AZUR, DGIS	Work on revamping the site and migration onto new CMS
	Setting up of computer labs in secondary schools, community schools continued with acquisition of Free broadband connectivity to schools through a partnership with AFRICONNECT.	The labs are to facilitate girls interest in ICTs as well as to promote free opensource as the computers are all loaded with	The programme has become quite well known more schools are requesting for the service though OWA cannot meet the demand.	FAIR international, AFRICconnect, Ministry of education	To run a competition in the schools on FOSS>
	The AIDSChannel has a page on youth to share content that comes from the HIV/AIDS clubs supported by	There is need to link these youths to other global initiatives of youths discussing AIDS issues.		Schools, Global Fund, DGIS	Linkages with other global initiatives
	Two discussion forums held,	Both discussion		IICD, Ebrain, ZMF	Plan for two more

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	<p>on cerebral palsy and one on the ICT implementation Other discussions and debates were held specifically for partners prior to and after training sessions eg. Headmasters on improvement of the school educational content project. The youth HIV/AIDS discussions continue.</p> <p>Eight grassroots communities have begun to produce community newsletters after being trained. Most are in local languages but a few in English.</p> <p>Training manual on advocacy with ICTs produced and training sessions held in several communities</p>	<p>forums were moderated by partners after training sessions on moderation. People are more apt to act when given capacity in a particular area.</p> <p>Communities are excited about this opportunity to have a voice to air their concerns and disseminate more widely.</p> <p>Most community members did not understand the power of advocacy to address their issues, in particular how they can do so much more through ICTs without huge budgets.</p>	<p>JjjjjOne of the communities have gone further to run competitions in primary schools to get developmental content for their publication.</p> <p>Several advocacy activities have been initiated and implemented by the communities after training. From letters to MPs to holding public discussions etc.</p>	<p>SDC, PACT</p> <p>SDC, PACT, DGIS</p>	<p>discussion forums to be selected and moderated by partners, OWA provides training and platform.</p> <p>To produce electronic versions of these publications</p> <p>To include more tools in particular internet as most are using only computer, radio, mobile phones.</p>

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<p>Poverty impact of ICT4D (ICD) evaluated and disseminated to key development audiences</p>	<p>Grassroot ICT assessments carried out in four countries Zambia, Congo, Mali and Mozambique.</p> <p>Evaluation of the malaria Project to see how useful ICTs/radio is for combating malaria and especially for taking a bottom up approach to malaria</p>	<p>This information is from extremely rural communities in order for us to learn the real impact of ICTs even very Basic ones.</p> <p>Malaria is a number one killer in sub sahara Africa and accounts for most absentees at work, any contributions on how to minimize this will be welcome by most development agencies and donors</p>	<p>The information so far gathered shows that there is very little if any ICT awarness or usage in very rural areas.</p> <p>The survery so far done showed that ther is a lot of misinformation and misconceptions about malaria in the communities even after all the education. It is therefore crucial to take a bottom up approach rather than just giving people information they do not use. ICTs are as much about giving people a voice (hearing from them) as informing or educating them.</p>	<p>SDC., DFID, AZUR, CCM, JAMANA</p> <p>ZMF, USAID, community Radios</p>	<p>More assessments to be done in two other countries</p> <p>Disseminate the results of the evaluation</p>