

Annex 2b. BCO Reporting

Reporting period: September 2004 to December 2004

Organisation:

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>
① ICD has been mainstreamed in development sectors (PRSPs, SWAps)	<p>We have initiated a bi-monthly publication entitled, Mainstreaming ICTs aimed at documenting the relevance of ICTs in accelerating the Millennium Development Goals in South Asia. The first two issues that have focussed on Food Security and Primary Education have received a number of positive feedback from the recipients.</p> <p>Internal consultation to revamp the Digital Opportunity Channel (www.digitalopportunity.org) currently edited by OneWorld South Asia into a knowledge portal on ICT and MDG issues was carried out. This channel will also focus on regional and international issues around ICTs (WSIS debate, ICANN, etc.) while covering technology issues to highlight the appropriateness of ICTs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BCO members and alliance partners may like to offer some comments for the publication 2. BCO members might consider using the tool for their policy advocacy and mainstreaming of ICTs work in South Asia 3. BCO partners might wish to contribute to the Digital Opportunity Channel 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The positive feedback of government policy-makers to ICT-enabled developmental work 2. Government's willingness to contribute more monies to ICT work – especially in setting up ICT kiosks in villages 3. The basic framework for the DO channel seems to be suitable to OWSA's mission objectives 	<p>This publication has been possible with the financial support from SDC and Hivos; Now, with dfid offering an accountable grant to OWSA, this publication might be strengthened</p> <p>DO channel has been edited with support from DGIS. If BCO partners join hands, this channel might become stronger. With BCO DFID grant, an African editor is being recruited</p>	<p>Initiating Ek Dunia Soochnalayas (OneWorld Rural Advocacy Centres) in South Asia</p> <p>Initiating Ek Dunia Ka Khahani (grassroots story telling competition) in South Asia</p> <p>Making significant contribution to WSIS process at Prepcom 2 by involving five grassroots women from India</p> <p>Recruitment of African DO channel editor</p> <p>A regional meeting on ICTs and MDGs in Delhi bringing over 500 delegates with a view to initiating 20 and odd communities of practice in MDG themes</p> <p>Planning Ek Dunia Radio work</p>
② Stronger voice and debate have been enabled through ICD	<p>Our eDiscussion lists on the controversial topic "Reservation for Dalits" have shown tremendous results in major policy-makers and CSOs debating the issue of reservation of private and public sector jobs for the Dalit community in India</p> <p>Our eDiscussion and Video conference on infokiosks around the launch of Mission 2007 (www.mission2007.org) have resulted in critical recommendation to the government, private sector entities and the CSOs in India</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. eDiscussions do offer some help in influencing policy; however keeping the momentum in eDiscussions is a real challenge. The Dalit list being controversial in nature has kept the interest live as it was launched at a time the government itself was unclear about the issue 2. Video conference facilities of the British Council came handy to consult with policy makers and think-tank of ICTs in Indian metropolitan areas. However, such a facility is found to be very expensive and needs a lot of preparation to manage multiple city consultations of this nature 3. The Mission 2007 initiative is being discussed in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka as a replicable option as the SSC (Sustainability, Scalability and Collaboration) framework of OneWorld South Asia seem to be acceptable to ICT think-tank in the region 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Our policy recommendations are being collated on the issue of reservation for Dalits 2. Our policy recommendation to the Misson 2007 partners in government and the private sector are receiving positive results 3. The Union Minister for IT invited OWSA to advise him on governmental IT initiatives and has subsequently announced government plans. The government's plans have included OWSA's recommendations 	<p>Panos South Asia is a key organisation OWSA would like to collaborate with for future MDG debates in the region</p> <p>APC, Bellanet are other two key organisations OWSA would like to continue to collaborate with</p> <p>OWSA would like to explore possibilities with IICD, and other donor organisations as well</p>	

<p>③</p> <p>Learning and accountability in ICD have been demonstrated</p>	<p>In collaboration with APC and a local partner in Bangladesh (BFES), we have carried out a regional consultation on ICT issues – financing, governance, policy and communication rights. This meeting has brought to light the need for openness and public involvement in the regional and international ICT politics.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Organising a meeting a third country with partners is a real challenge 2. APC and OWSA coming together for this organising this event is just the beginning of a long standing relationship between these two organisations 3. The regional input to SAARC ministers has never been made in the past. This forum has highlighted a number of possibilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. First time collaboration between OWSA and APC 2. Possibilities to feed into the SAARC official summit 3. Future events are to be organised to capitalise with the momentum 		