



Community Network News Letter

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POINT OF VIEW

Community networks provide communities with a wealth of benefits. The use of community networks strengthen community life, improves the democratic process, ensure residents' access to the "information superhighway", and aids local economic development.

National Advisory committee hold fourth meeting.

National advisory committee on supporting community-led approaches to addressing the digital divide in Nigeria has hold a fourth meeting on process and arrangement of community network access.

Twenty two members committee lead by CITAD discussed on the smaller and minor issues faced by community on network access, and they discussed on how does those community would have the facilities and regulation on the network access.

CITAD SENSITIZES ITAS COMMUNITY ON NETWORK CONNECTION BASED ON LOCAL ENTITY.

Network problem is becoming rampant in Nigeria, in accessing services of voice call, SMS and Internet access as a result of lack of community networks in the country.

In its attempt to mitigate community access to network, CITAD has sensitizes Itas community on importance and prospect of network in the community. The program which was kicked off in other communities



discussed during the event by Harira Wakila, a Gender Based officer of CIT-

among communities that benefited from the program.

Defination of communi-

AD, other topics discussed were service render by community network, regulatory conditions of project among



in the country; Jama'are in Bauchi, Lailaiyi and Pasepa in Abuja are

ty network and its benefits were some of the major contents that were

others.

Also, the technical of-

Understanding the Community Networks Project.

By Y.Z

The Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) is implementing a project entitled Supporting Community-led Approaches to Addressing the Digital Divide Nigeria coordinated globally by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) with support from the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) through their Digital Access Programme (DAP).

This is part of a global project to catalyze the flourishing of community networks as a means of connecting the unconnected.

The project focuses on selected locally managed community networks in three regions, Africa, Asia and Latin America, to strengthen their impact, reach and sustainability.

This group of community networks will form the core of a peer community that can connect and broaden support for community-based connectivity initiatives, nationally, regionally and internationally.

The project will achieve its objectives through peer learning and exchange, awareness raising, technical assistance, capacity building for the development of scalable, innovative and sustainable networks, policy and regulatory advocacy and community mobilisation.

Objectives of the project.

The objectives of the project are segmented at three levels as follows:

Micro levels,

- Provide Business management and technical capacity development programmes to communities and their organizations for local people to start and maintain efficient networks.
- Address both accessibility and affordability gaps since most underserved communities are poor and unprofitable to the market, we need to develop low cost access models that are viable, sustainable and affordable to the poor.
- Improve awareness of local, marginalised communities with regard to both potential dividends and harms generated by digital technologies through greater access to information on opportunities and risks hinders the adoption of inclusive digital access for development in many underserved communities and provision of digital literacy skills and knowledge to manage the above challenges.

Meso level,

- Address the problem associated with the fact that Infrastructure is not generally considered as part of the digital rights package and there are very few people with the appropriate professional and academic backgrounds available to take on these issues.

- Enhance the capacity of Meso organisations act as representatives and intermediaries for micro organisations to engage in advocacy at macro level to engender a more conducive policy space for community networks.
- Create linkages between meso organisations and micro organizations that directly work with the people to enable them to communicate and negotiate with institutions at the macro level organization, such as regulatory agencies.
- Create opportunities and spaces for cross-country and peer learning amongst meso organisations.

Macro level,

- Institutions and individuals at the macro level are not sensitized to or familiar with the particular needs and context of community networks, This lack of knowledge and awareness hinders the formulation of policies and regulations that enable innovative and inclusive connectivity models, The project aims to address this.
- Even in cases where policy makers and regulators are sensitized and willing to create a more enabling environment, other key stakeholders such as the treasury and the tax authority may present different obstacles due to a perception of telecommunications sector as a revenue-making sector rather than a public utility.

Major Activities of the Project.

1. Capacity building on designing, implementation and running of community networks
2. Mentoring through visits and experience sharing with other CN Peers.
3. School of Community Network (annual, 2021 and 2022).
4. Training on regulatory, legal and policy matters and interfacing with regulators.
5. Advocacy for improving regulatory and policy space for the community networks
6. Research and engagement at local level.

The advisory Committee

To guide and support the implementation of the project in each of the country, each of the meso organizations is required to constitute an Advisory Committee, whole responsibilities will include:

1. Provide general oversight in the implementing of the project.
2. Provide professional expert advice on various issues and engagements of the projects.
3. Serve to interface with government/regulatory agencies to secure more favourable policy environment on matters relating to the promotion of community networks in the country.
4. Take part in the annual School of Community network as part of the training and mentoring processes of the project that will benefit the target communities and organizations.
5. Take part in national and cross national CN Peer exchanges for sharing experience and learning.
6. Take part in the civil society/regulatory authorities/policy interface meetings to identify, and address legal, policy and regulatory matters that are barriers to the flourishing of community networks in the country.

What do we expect to see at the end of the project are:

Champion the cause for Nigeria to articulate and implement a National Digital Inclusion Agenda that will address various pockets of digital exclusion and marginalization in the country. And, finally, we hope to see community networks contributing to addressing the digital divide in the country by providing connectivity to many unconnected communities in the country.

PROFILE OF COMMUNITY NETWORKS IN NIGERIA CITAD-LOCNET

1. JAMA'ARE COMMUNITY

Contact Person: **Saidu Babawuro Haruna**

Organisation and Location:Jama'are Traders Association: The Jama'are Traders association was established in 2001 and registered with the Bauchi State Ministry of Youth and Community Development to provide a platform for traders in Jamaare Local Government of the State. As of December 2020, it had 250 members. Members pay a flat rate of N200 per month as membership due

2. ITAS COMMUNITY

Contact Person: **Yusuf Sani Ustaz**

Organization and Location:Itas Youth Association (IYA): Formed in 2015, with over 1000 members as of January 2021, it unites youth, both males and females from Itas town of Itas/Gadau Local Government of Bauchi State to engage in activities to promote youth development. Its focus is mainly in education, entrepreneurship and ICT. It is registered with the Social Development Department of the Local Government.

3. KAFANCHAN COMMUNITY: **Contact Person: Seyi Johnson**

Organization and Location:Fantsuam Foundation is community based development civil society organization. Fantsuam Foundation is a rural-based non-governmental organisation that works with local communities to fight poverty and disadvantage through integrated development programmes. Fantsuam Foundation was founded in 1996 to empower community members, particularly women, to find means of employment and income and meet their own development needs. Working in 53 communities across seven local government areas in Kaduna State, close to 15,000 individuals benefit from Fantsuam's services every year and it was estimated that by 2018 over 400,000 people have benefited either directly or indirectly from Fantsuam Foundation's activities. Its mission is to eliminate poverty and disadvantage in Kaduna State through integrated development programmes.

4. PASEPA COMMUNITY:

Contact Person:**Aisha Sarki Muhammed**

Organization and Location:Zoboda Women Traders Co-operative Society: this is a group of community women in Pasepa Community, Bwari Area of the Federal capital territory. Established in 5 April, 1998, it has about 150 members. Its key objective is to promote Community Development and Economic Empowerment with focus on helping women farmers. This is exclusively for women and women led.

5. LALEYI COMMUNITY

Contact Person:**Ayuba Zaphania Kwali**

Organization and Location:AYEBWAKA LELEYI GWARI ASSOCIATION, founded in 15-5-2012 and registered with the Local Government,

6. KILANKWA

Contact Person: **Sunusi Yakubu**

Organization and Location:Allah Ya Baku Group Farmers' Cooperative Society: Allah Ya Baku Group Farmers' Cooperative Society. Was established in 1996 as a platform for rural farmers in Bwari Area Council of FCT. It is registered with the area council. It has about 70 members as of January, 2021. Although theoretically women farmers are members, in practice often it is only the male members who are active in the affairs of the association.

Meeting with Peer Organizations

As the effort of the organization to bring the gap the is bridging the gap that communities are facing on access to network, some local and international organization has hold monthly meeting As part of the regional peer exchange in other to support each other on the work they do and to create space to bring peers together in order to benefit knowledge.

The idea is to hold the meeting monthly through bringing all the peers together to share their progress challenges and the support they need from other peers more especially on community acces. The session held with the following organization such as **Democratic Republic of Congo, Pamoja-net, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa and CITAD** from Nigeria effective collaboration with other peers and consulting them from time to time shape the way you do your work.



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Certificate in CIT for Families 1 Week

Certificate in Digital Entrepreneurship (Freelance) 1 Week

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Diploma in Auto Card (DAC) 8 Weeks

Diploma in Website Design (DWD) 8 Weeks

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OUR VISION is:

A knowledge-based democratic and self-reliant society

OUR MISSION is:

To empower citizens for a just and knowledge-based society that is anchored on sustainable and balanced development using ICT, Capacity Development, Advocacy, Research and Partnership

OUR CORE VALUES are built on the following principles:

Responsibility:
Responsiveness:
Reliability:
Integrity:
Transparency:
Accountability:

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