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Contribution by

Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications

Overview of USF in Ghana

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OVERVIEW OF USF IN GHANA

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OUTLINE

- Overview of USF (GIFEC) in Ghana
- GIFEC Projects
- Accomplished Projects
- Ongoing Projects
- Content Creation
- Challenges of ownership and sustainability
- The way forward

OVERVIEW OF USF IN GHANA

- The Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (GIFEC), an implementing agency of the Ministry of Communications, was established in January 2004, to facilitate the spread of ICT and their use in rural Ghana.

- The agency is helping to promote research and reading culture, through ICT use, thereby empowering the people in unserved and underserved communities to directly participate in development and decision-making processes at local and national levels.

GIFEC PROJECTS

- School Connectivity Project (SCP)
- Community Information Centres (CIC)
- Prisons Connectivity
- Library Connectivity
- Post Office Connectivity
- Common Telecommunications Facility
- Security Services Connectivity – Rapid Response Units
- ICT For Sustainable Fishing
- Rural Payphone
- ICT Literacy Training Programme for Civil & Public Servants, Traditional Rulers and Others

SPECIFIC PPPP PROJECTS SINCE 2009

- Rural Telephony Project: collaboration with MTN, a local private telecommunications operator.

- Community Business & Sustainable Development project: collaboration with Kumasi Institute of Technology & Energy (KITE)

- Community Initiated Project: collaboration with interested communities.

- **School Connectivity** : under this project the following institutions have each been provided with a fully furnished and equipped ICT laboratory with accessories, and Internet access:
  - 38 Colleges of Education
  - 37 National Vocational Training Institutes
  - 26 Technical Institutes
  - 10 Youth Leadership Training Centres
  - 114 Senior Secondary Schools
  - 5 Basic Schools

- 6000 laptops have been provided to Basic Schools which do not have the infrastructure for ICT laboratories. This is to support government policy of compulsory ICT education at the basic level.

Community Information Centers

- Currently 93 CICs are fully furnished and equipped to provide community internet access, low cost ICT training and also to serve as community information resource centres.

- Basic school children receive free ICT training at the centres.

- Security Connectivity: in order to facilitate quick response to security and disaster issues and ensure peace in flash point areas, the following security agencies have been provided ICT equipment and Internet connectivity:

  - 31 Military units
  - 34 Police units
  - 100 Offices of the Bureau of National Investigations
  - 16 Prisons centres
  - 190 National Disaster Management Organisation centres
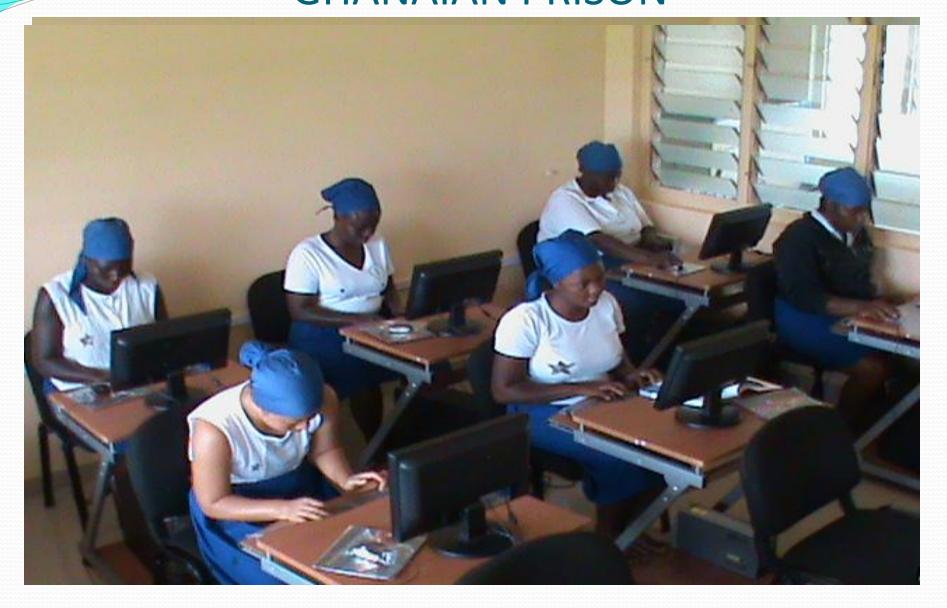
ICT TRAINING FOR POLICE OFFICERS

MILITARY OFFICERS IN GIFEC SPONSORED-ICT TRAINING

INMATES IN AN ICT CLASS IN A GHANAIAN PRISON

The following projects have been supported with computers, accessories and Internet Connectivity –

- **Library Connectivity**
  - 10 Regional and 11 District Libraries
  - 10 Mobile Library vans have been equipped
- **Post Office Connectivity**
  - 15 Rural Post Offices
- **Rural Payphone**
  - 1200 rural payphones have been installed in communities, schools and colleges
- **Common Telecommunication Facilities**
  - 41 Masts have been constructed in communities without mobile telephone access
- **Last Mile Initiative**
  - 2 masts have been built in cash crop producing communities to support crop farmers to access prices, best practices, etc, elsewhere

A MOBILE LIBRARY SETS UP FOR ICT TRAINING IN A RURAL SCHOOL

The following projects are ongoing:

- **School Connectivity** –
    - 40 Nursing Training Colleges
    - 25 Community Developement Vocational Institutes
    - 9 Farm Institutes
- 31 **Community Information Centres**
- 9 **Post Offices**
- 10 **Prisons Centres**
- 25 **Common Telecom Facility Masts**
- 10 **Rural Telephone Masts** (Solar powered)
- 1000 **Rural Payhones**
- **ICT for Sustainable Fishing** -155 Fish finders deployed so far
- 10 **Disability Employment Project** – This project has been initiated in collaboration with the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare to provide sustainable livelihood in ICT to people with disabilities.

FISHERMEN USING THE FISH-FINDER AT SEA

TRADING BOOTHS FOR THE DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE PROJECT

- Under the Community Initiative Project, GIFEC collaborates with deprived communities interested in setting up an ICT Centre. The community provides the secured infrastructure and GIFEC provides the ICT facilities and internet access.

- 150 communities have so far benefited from this initiative

- The emphacies under this project is on the rural unserved and underserved areas.

Opening a rural ICT Centre

CONTENT CREATION

- To fully utilize the ICT equipment supplied to the schools, GIFEC has initiated a content creation concept, where the schools are supported with College Management Software to help with their Administration and Academic activities such as lecture notes and assignment uploads. All 38 Teacher training colleges have been deployed with this software.

- An examinations revision software has been developed for the Senior High Schools to help pupils prepare for their final examinations. This has been done for 100 schools and CICs.

- A desktop Television programme has been developed for the Community Information Centres to enable them disseminate useful local information and create local content. This has been deployed for 20 CICs on pilot basis.

Public Education on Electromagnetic Fields Effects from the Masts

- Since June 2010, Ghana Investment Fund for Electronic Communications (**GIFEC**) has in collaboration with some specialised agencies (NCA, EPA, WHO) embarked upon a public education on electromagnetic fields exposure and health, nation-wide:

    I. to raise awareness on issues of EMF exposure and health related exposure limits;

    II. to provide accurate knowledge about mobile telecommunications and developments related to electromagnetic fields (EMF) exposure and health;

    III. to provide an overview on best practice examples and initiatives related to harmonized policy- and law-making, standardization and risk communication

PUBLIC EDUCATION ON ELECTROMAGNETIC EXPOSURE AND HEALTH – WA

STUDENTS AT A FORUM ON EMF, SUNYANI

- High Bandwidth cost
- Renumeration of skilled personnel to take care of the centres
- Ownership and sustainability of the projects
- High cost of land and cumbersome process of land acquisition
- Perceived health effects of electromagnetic fields from the masts

THE WAY FORWARD

- Strategic partnership with the network operators for subsidised bandwith for GIFEC projects

- An increament in the percentage contribution towards universal service projects

- A lot more of Public Private partnerships to facilitate extra funding.

THANK YOU