“ICTs and Poverty Reduction: Pre-Market Social Investments to Benefit the Poor”

A Presentation to the OECD DAC

Wednesday, July 7, 2004
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  ICTS for Development
• Susan Joekes, Team Leader,
  Trade, Employment & Competitiveness

IDRC CRDI
30 Year History of Support for Information & Knowledge

- Established in 1970
- Support Development of Research Capacity in the Developing World
- Innovator and Leader in ICTs for Development
- Federal “Corporation” - Board of Governors Appointed by Government
- $100 million/annum Budget
- 335 Staff Worldwide (6 Regional Offices)
- DFAIT Minister is Responsible
- Proportional ODA budget

- IDRC shall…establish, maintain and operate information and data centres and facilities for research and other activities, IDRC Act, 1970
ICT4D Activities Around the World
ICTs and Poverty Reduction

Harvard Meeting, September 2003

• Discuss how ICTs can be used to reduce poverty
• 30 experts world-wide
• Speakers from
  • Indonesia
  • Uganda
  • Brazil
  • Bangladesh
  • Mozambique
  • India
  • Costa Rica

Onno Purbo
Alison Gillwald
Frederick Tusubira
Tadao Takahashi
Harvard Forum Video
The New Development Orthodoxy

ICT4Ds are not going away!!
"The members of the DOT Force are convinced that the basic right of access to knowledge and information is a prerequisite for modern human development. ICT must be embraced wholeheartedly by the broad development community at the earliest opportunity. Specifically, this will mean fully integrating ICT in G-8 and other donor development assistance policies and programmes, as well as enhancing coordination of multilateral initiatives."

G8 DotForce, Genoa Action Plan, July 2001
DotForce Outcomes?

- Canada Fund for Africa - $500 million
- Increased ODA by 0.08%/annum - 50% in Africa

- Connectivity Africa - $12 million - Canada ($35 Million)
- IeDRN - $8 million - Canada
- Enablis - $10 million - Canada

- CATIA - $30 million - UK

- ADEN - $6 million - France

- Open Knowledge Network - $6 million - UK and Canada

- DotCom Alliance - $75 million - US

- Microsoft CTLC Support Network (HelpDesk) - $12 million
The Digital Provide!!!

“We have argued that integrated markets can significantly help the rural poor of developing nations, and that ICTs, even in basic communications technologies, can play a role in creating such markets. Moreover, we have posited that ICTs have the potential not just to provide a one-time lift to income in poor countries, but to accelerate the entire growth process by generally making it easier for isolated producers to improve their practices. In effect, ICTs speed innovation.”

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Values deflated to 1991Rmb
Developing World “E” Markets

• Pre - “E” Market → Africa

• Split “E”-Market → Asia

• Dual “E”-Market → Americas
“The message is clear: sustained economic growth reduces poverty. But for output growth to contribute to poverty alleviation, it must translate into incomes of the poor. For wage labourers and salaried workers, the quantity of employment and the rate of pay are crucial. For the self-employed, productivity and returns are important, influenced by technology, inputs and prices. Employment is thus the key link between output growth and poverty alleviation.”

SMS / WAP

- Manobi
- Access to market prices
ICTs in Africa

70% of telephone infrastructure in Africa... 
...is cellular

What implications does that fact have for ICTs in Africa?
Manobi Project: Evidence?

• 150 farmers on average raised their revenues by 200$ per month

• A few farmers were able to raise their revenues by 1000$ a month
Access

- Abdullah
- Hospital and lawn furniture
- Has computer and email

Awareness

- Pak Amin
- Makes metal furniture
- Is about to buy a computer

Diffusion

- Cecep Sabiya
  * Samurai Swords
  * No Phone, no Fax, no computer
  * Sells to distributor
  * Business is good!
“Capitalist infrastructure can only be built behind or slightly ahead of the market.....The Internet could not have been privately financed, the usage wasn’t there, would take twenty years to develop...But, in the end, a social investment in infrastructure provided the means for developing an exciting set of new private industries.”

“The Collapse of Inconvenience....”
Siva Vaidhyanathan, Professor, Culture and Communications, NYU,
www.faculty.fairfield.edu.mandrejevic/watching.html
Handhelds

Technology
- Palm Pilots
- Survey Software (Pendragon Forms)
- Solar Rechargers
- WideRay Jack

Where?
- Uganda
- Healthnet / Satellite
- School of Medicine, Makarere University
- Dept of Health
Handhelds

- Demographic surveillance is a massive challenge for effective health spending
- Is it feasible to collect demographic information using Palm Pilots?
- Satellife ([http://www.satellife.org](http://www.satellife.org)) conducted successful pilots in Ghana and Uganda
Service Deliver Implications

• Using PDAs automates one of the most laborious processes for health workers—saving energy and time.
• Makes data collection enjoyable.
• Improved data quality—data entry once—at source
• Quicker data analysis—meaningful for decision making and feedback.
• More time for patient care.

Unanticipated Benefits

• Health workers posted to way-out-of-town settings have something to occupy their time.
• Users able to use the personal assistance programs like Diary, and calculator.
• Improved self-esteem: “Showing off one’s PDA” increased motivation for work.

Dr. Patrick Okello, Presentation to ICTs in Local Governance Workshop, Addis Ababa, June 2004
The Water Pump and the Telecentre!!!!

The Water Pump....

....The Telecentre