



**PROGRESS REPORT
1 October 2015 to 10 December 2016**

Seed Alliance: An alliance to scale Digital Innovation

REPORT PREPARED BY
COLLABORATING INSTITUTIONS:
AFRINIC, APNIC & LACNIC

SUMMARY

This project supports the continuing global impact of the Seed Alliance, with a particular focus on scaling of technological solutions and supporting entrepreneurship through increased investment in mentoring that supports grantees in developing and scaling their products. Larger grants were provided to support this approach as well as one inter-regional grant, funding for inter-regional exchanges among grant recipients, and mentoring and networking opportunities according to regional contexts, conducted under the supervision of the African Network Information Center - AFRINIC (FIRE Africa), the Asia Pacific Network Information Center – APNIC (ISIF Asia) and the Internet Address Registry for Latin America and the Caribbean – LACNIC (FRIDA).

Submission: 1 January 2017

Table of contents

1. Introduction	3
1.1 Funding mechanisms: from small grants to scale-up investment.....	5
1.2 Innovation	6
2. Background Information.....	7
2.1 AFRINIC and small grants in the African Region.....	8
2.2. APNIC and small grants in the Asia Pacific region.....	10
2.3 LACNIC and small grants in Latin America and the Caribbean.....	12
3. Seed Alliance strategic objective.....	13
3.1 Evaluation against agreed indicators.....	15
4. Governance and work methodology	21
4.1 Seed Alliance Executive Council.....	21
4.2 Seed Alliance secretariat role	23
4.3 Regional programs secretariat role.....	24
5. Geographic coverage and outreach	28
5.1 Languages	28
5.2 Corporate image	29
6. Collaborative activities	29
6.1 Public websites, application and selection platforms	30
6.2 Funding Categories supported	31
6.3 Modalities: Scale-up investment, small grants, inter-regional grant and awards	32
6.4 Selection of funding recipients: platforms, criteria and process.....	33
6.5 Reporting.....	37
6.6 Fundraising.....	38
7. Selected projects	39
7.1 FIRE grants and awards	39
7.2 FRIDA grants and awards	41
7.3 ISIF Asia grants and awards.....	44
7.4 Inter-regional grant	46
8. Interregional exchanges	48
9. Capacity building efforts	49
10. Event Management.....	51
11. Gender and environmental protection considerations	52
12. Risk analysis	53
13. Dissemination of project results	55
14. Seed alliance project cycle activities	57

1. Introduction

The positive and continuing impact of ICTs, and particularly communications networks, in developing countries is increasingly well documented. The Economist recently reported on “a remarkable change taking place in Africa. A continent that has long accepted technological hand--me--downs from the West is increasingly innovating for itself”¹. The report went on to explain that “Mobile money is the best example. A technology that long struggled to gain a foothold in the West [...] has transformed economies in places such as Kenya, where millions of unbanked people have been brought into the financial system”.

However, many challenges remain. Specifically, there is a strong need to remain focused on the promotion of positive social and economic change, particularly in the areas of technology development and deployment, governance, and learning. The Economist warns, for example, that “Africa is helped by a peculiar confluence of economic and political circumstances. Regulation is generally light thanks to weak governance; engineers can try things out that are either prohibited or prohibitively bureaucratic elsewhere. It is also buoyed by the paucity of traditional infrastructure, whether roads or landlines, meaning that new technologies or business models face few established competitors.”

In this environment, the private sector has extended ICTs, especially Internet services, further and further into developing societies, without the need for assistance. While this is a positive development, it has caused many traditional donors to retreat from dedicated funding for ICT research and deployment. This is despite the fact that at the same time - in the context of ICT4D - significant opportunities lie ahead and new ones are opening up where targeted assistance can provide real benefits in terms of development outcomes. “Technology is opening up African markets that have long been closed or did not previously exist”, says Jim Forster, one of the early engineers at Cisco, a maker of network gear, and now an angel investor. The same can be said for Asia (e.g. Myanmar) and Latin America.

Simultaneously, sources of funding are diversifying, with increased investment from both venture and social impact funds, corporate social responsibility programs, and government stimulus packages.

It is in this dynamic environment that the Seed Alliance and its programs --FIRE Africa, FRIDA and ISIF Asia-- have become active and successful in identifying opportunities for targeted funding of innovation in Internet deployment in the developing world. Through a competitive, community-based funding approach, involving both small grants and awards, these programs have supported and helped scale projects as per the table below, investing 3,586,577.00 AUD from 2012 - 2015 from all sources.

Funding recipients	ISIF Asia	FRIDA	FIRE Africa
Grants allocated from 2012 to 2015	729,000 AUD for 27 grants	255,000 USD for 15 grants and 56,000 USD for Scaling-ups	220,000 USD for 22 grants
Awards and travel grants allocated from 2012 to 2015	105,000 AUD for 15 awards	179,000 USD for 16 Awards, 6 Awards + and LACIGF & IGF expenses	92,000 USD for 12 awards and travel grants to IGF

¹ The Economist: “The pioneering continent” April 25th 2015

IDRC provided 1,241,777 AUD split into three regional grants and Sida provided 1,501,200.00 AUD managed by APNIC on behalf of Seed Alliance members. At the same time as these first grants for the Seed Alliance were approved, AFRINIC, APNIC and LACNIC provided estimated contributions of 691,600.00 AUD in-kind and in cash as well as an additional 152,000 AUD via sponsorship from Industry partners for total funding of 3,586,577.00² AUD.

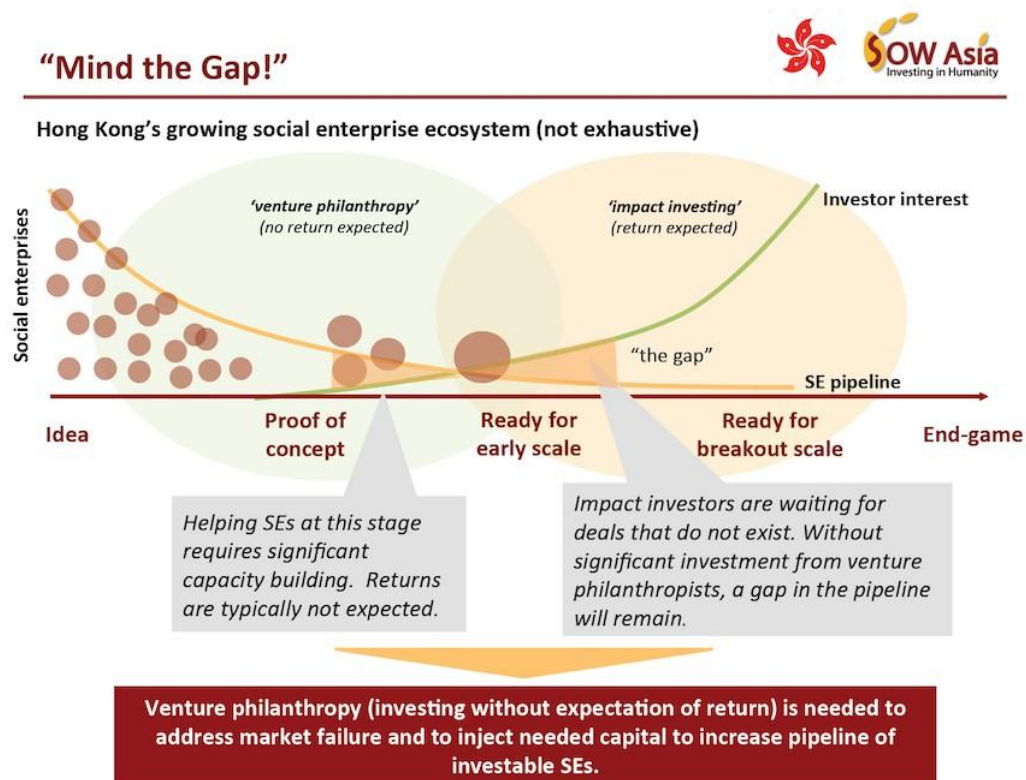


Figure 1: Hong Kong’s social enterprise ecosystem

While they are described as grants, it is also possible to look at the support provided by the Seed Alliance as investments in social enterprises. Figure 1 illustrates the social enterprise ecosystem and life cycle for projects from “idea to end-game” in Hong Kong as elaborated by SOW ASIA. This representation is an accurate portrayal of innovation ecosystems across the Global South. Specifically, the type of projects that the Seed Alliance supports fall close to the intersection between the green line (investor interest) and the orange line (small enterprise pipeline). Projects are characterized for having a proof of concept that requires support for deployment (early scale) and being able attract both venture and impact investment. However, to succeed, initiatives in such stage often require significant capacity building and networking support to scale.

² Please note that these amounts are reflected in AUD as all accounts for the Sida grant were kept in AUD.

Several recent reports and documents have explained these opportunities in detail:

- [Impact of Entrepreneurship Database Report](#)
- [ANDE and SGB Sector Overview](#)

The volume and efficacy of funding for ICT4D has been shaped by several factors over the past few decades, to some extent following a 'natural' trajectory of a new technology as it moves from its early revolutionary potential towards mainstreaming across economies and societies. So, in this context, what is the role for small grants?

1.1 Funding mechanisms: from small grants to scale-up investment

Small grants are, first and foremost, small and therefore sharply focused. Thus, their impact lies in their potential to generate ripple effects by various means, magnifying specific outcomes and creating wider change. This primarily comes down to two factors:

1. Innovations that enable people to overcome an existing problem or can open up new and previously unseen possibilities
2. Mechanisms to allow the rapid and widespread dissemination of that innovation

A small grant need not target both of these at once. The emphasis may be on identifying and disseminating existing innovations, or on supporting a creative solution that already has access to a means of dissemination. But only the presence of both can, in the end, enable a small grant to have an impact beyond its scale. And both also present clear challenges to a grant-aiding body. If genuinely innovative ideas were easy to generate or even identify, they would barely merit the title 'innovation'. Often their truly transformative character is evident only in retrospect, through practice and repetition. A high attrition rate is thus to be expected. Furthermore, successful dissemination of a great idea is not inevitable: issues such as the appropriate medium – from policy-driven to word-of-mouth sharing – localization, and user reception, are vital.

What is required is innovation that encourages and enables the local level to examine and understand their own needs and to begin to work, in partnership with others, to develop the kinds of services that will satisfy these needs and be sustainable in the long term.

In this context, the small grant approach has provided the several distinct advantages. Given the high-risk nature of innovation, a small grant allows organizations to explore and experiment in a context in which failure need not carry such a high price. Large grants mostly require very significant effort, and failure can be a major blow to an organization. Thus, both donors and recipients tend to be more conservative in terms of attempting innovation. However, if a small grant scheme can accept a higher rate of failure, it must also try harder to learn from both successes and failures, in particular the process of innovation, the obstacles, and the facilitating factors.



This process has provided the Seed Alliance with a unique pool of tried, tested and mentored organizations that are ready to scale, or at least understand what it takes to scale. There are few other organizations globally that have such a pool of organizations in the ICT4D sector.

The regional programs have also developed a successful awards program that provides a special opportunity for supported organizations to be showcased at regional and global events. This provides these organizations with unprecedented opportunities to gain valuable experience in how to engage with new partners and supporters as part of the scaling process, essentially putting them on a stage for what for many is their first time in front of an audience. The fact that this is done in the context of recognition for their contributions to social and economic development in their communities adds more to the scaling opportunities.

1.2 Innovation

The current trend of mainstreaming Internet access into development programs, while not well established or successful on a large scale, is certainly well recognized. While Internet technologies are at the forefront of improving the livelihoods of the poor as well as many other development sectors, many opportunities remain for impact via innovations that can be scaled after support by small grants.

Internet technologies that complement traditional support systems for poor communities can particularly yield dividends. Extension work in health, agriculture, education and other areas of small enterprise are good examples. There is increasing evidence that instead of attempting to build sophisticated services from the ground up, examining what is already being done to see how it can be improved through the use of the Internet, incrementally and across several areas, may be the best approach. Yet it is important to also identify the emergence and evolution of trends both within and outside the context outlined above. Pioneering economies may make early mistakes but they will also have early successes. Different and unexpected actors (e.g. entrepreneurs) may come to the fore at different times to jump start and achieve success with the Internet in development areas.

Just as important has been the rapid growth in start-up/incubator communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. While many of these communities are still being developed, some are already providing support for scaling-up that was previously unavailable in most LDCs.³

Sustainable business models are another area in which innovation is needed, especially where communities may not be ready for a purely market-driven model. A sectoral focus allows the exploration of models in which communities can become more effectively involved in the delivery of traditional support services using the Internet. Yet another focus for innovation is addressing the 'broadband gap' in rural areas. This can benefit from action at several levels. Innovative low-cost technologies are one, often piggybacking on existing electronic or other infrastructure. Policy innovation is another. Internet regulation can have a significant impact in extending effective

³ Asian Development Bank Overview <http://www.adb.org/sectors/ict/overview>



access to broadband to rural populations as amply shown in India and elsewhere.

A sectoral focus towards Internet for development also raises the need for cross-sectoral knowledge sharing. Thus success in one sector may, with some refinement, be replicable in another. Yet while each is working traditionally within its own confines, this is unlikely to happen. Identifying and testing good practice in terms of cross-departmental and institutional sharing - for instance the use of web-based platforms – has significant potential.

2. Background Information

The Seed Alliance can trace its origins back more than 20 years to IDRC activities in Latin America and Asia. The Regional Fund for Digital Innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean (FRIDA) was launched in 2003 as a funding partnership between IDRC's PAN Americas program, the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) and LACNIC. A third phase of IDRC's Pan Asia program saw the launch of the Information Society Innovation Fund (ISIF Asia) in 2008 as a funding partnership between the IDRC, Internet Society, and APNIC with additional annual sponsorship provided by the DotAsia Organization.

In 2007, Dr Nii Quaynor, a pioneer of the African Internet, donated his Jon Postel Award cash prize on a pledge to help established the Fund for Internet Research and Education (FIRE Africa) as a pilot project focused on identifying and rewarding innovative Internet solutions to community challenges. In 2012, IDRC provided additional support to FIRE Africa, establishing it as a grants and awards program designed to encourage and support the development of solutions to information and communication needs in Africa, while emphasizing the role of the Internet in social and economic development.

During this time, while many other donor-based Internet for development have come and gone, FRIDA, ISIF Asia and FIRE Africa have continued to grow and develop, providing a strong and experienced foundation for the Seed Alliance to become a respected and established Internet industry-sponsored, development-agency-supported, digital innovation program for the global south. The three Seed Alliance programs are now well established and recognized in their respective regions. In addition, the Internet development community has been joined by other communities such as the venture philanthropy and social investment communities in engaging successfully with the programs either individually or collectively.

IDRC resources have successfully supported a growing community researching and experimenting with new technologies that have contributed to a proliferation of related projects and activities across all three regions. As their respective communities have become larger and their experiences with the Internet become more widespread and diverse, the three programs have also experimented with new formats and started awarding initiatives that have contributed significantly to the sustainable development of information societies in all three regions.

But there is more than just an organizational history to the Seed Alliance. People too have had long associations with it. The APNIC CEO has been involved since PAN Asia. The previous interim CEO of LACNIC was responsible for FRIDA in Latin America from 2003-07. Additionally, the coordinator of ISIF Asia, who is originally from Latin America, has helped the program grow and prosper in the Asia Pacific and more recently served as the de facto project-manager of the Seed Alliance relationship with Sweden's International Development Agency (Sida). To



capture and document this rich history and deep pool of experience, the different Seed Alliance's programs have been the subject of three IDRC evaluations.

The Alliance has built strong foundations on this knowledge and experience, creating a global network that supports innovation in the use of Internet for development across the South. IDRC initially approved a grant to the Seed Alliance of CAD 1.3M in 2012 that was distributed among the three regional programs under independent contracts. Under this grant agreement, the Alliance also reported both technically and financially to IDRC.

In addition to hosting and coordinating their own respective regional programs, APNIC, LACNIC and AFRINIC also contributed as full partners to each grant fund - along with a range of other funding partners and sponsors – more than CAD 800,000, bringing the Alliance base budget to more than CAD 3 million. The Seed Alliance has provided an important space for all its partners and sponsors to identify and build communities of practice, scale up relevant initiatives, provide better visibility for partners and projects, while promoting networking and mentoring. In recognition of this, in October 2012, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) joined the Alliance providing significant additional support for the allocation of small grants and awards for each region, and a variety of important collaborative efforts such as evaluation, capacity building and networking.

In addition to hosting and coordinating their own respective regional programs, the RIRs have continued to contribute as full partners, along with other sponsors. Final funding commitments from each RIR are listed in the budget section. Since the launch of the Alliance, the operation of the grants and awards programs has been monitored and discussed, plans designed, reviewed and solutions implemented to facilitate the collaborative activities proposed while maintaining the autonomy of each regional program.

For example:

1. Grant administration processes and procedures have been reviewed for continuous improvement;
2. The recipient's selection platform and processes have continued to be improved, based on feedback provided by applicants and selection committees/juries;
3. Legal agreements with grantees have been reviewed and templates for technical and financial reporting have been updated;
4. Technological and social experiences on the use of the Internet for development in all three regions have been identified and supported;
5. Resources allocated through different funding modalities (grants and awards as well as variations from region to region) have continued to support organizations working on the design and implementation of pilot projects and research experiments, as well as scale-up successful initiatives;
6. Grants and awards have been used to strengthen the technical capacity of supported project team members via active networking and facilitating the discovery of connections between technology and social development.

Here is a more detailed look at each registry and the program it supports and administers.

2.1 AFRINIC and small grants in the African Region



Headquartered in Ebène Cybercity, Mauritius, the African Network Information Centre (AFRINIC) is the Regional Internet Registry (RIR) for 56 economies in Africa and the Indian Ocean. It is one of five RIRs responsible for the management and allocation of Internet number resources and related services to their respective regions. Along with the provision of IP addresses and Autonomous System (AS) numbers, each registry also maintains a “WHOIS” database for their respective region. Combined, these services are a crucial part of the Internet’s infrastructure and operations and essential for its continued stable growth and operation. AFRINIC’s mission is to provide professional and efficient distribution of Internet number resources to the African Internet community, to support Internet technology usage and development across the continent and to strengthen Internet self-governance in Africa by encouraging a participatory policy development.

Since its inception in 2004, AFRINIC has dedicated resources to a range of activities in support of Internet development in the African region. These have included a wide range of capacity building activities such as training and educational activities, provision of an IPv6 lab, the Root Server Anycast Program, an Internet Routing Registry to make Africa more resilient, and support for research and development activities both within and outside of the organization. AFRINIC has also been an active player in the promotion of Internet Governance in the African region. In this context AFRINIC acts as a technical advisor to the African Union, collaborates with the African and International Telecommunications Unions, among other partnerships. In addition, the AFRINIC Government Working Group was set-up to encourage dialogue between the African technical community, governments and regulators in order to address the challenges faced in the continent.

AFRINIC is focused on five strategic goals:

1. Effective Registration & Added Value Services
2. Financial Sustainability
3. Agile and Resilient IT Infrastructure
4. Community Development
5. Global Infrastructure Development

Since 2007, AFRINIC has supported FIRE Africa with additional support from local donors through the African Network Information & Infrastructure (NII) Service award. In 2011 a partnership with the Seed Alliance, resulted in the official launch of FIRE Africa on a wider regional scale. The Fund for Internet Research and Education (FIRE Africa) is a grants and awards program designed to encourage and support the development of solutions to information and communication needs in the African region. It seeks to emphasize the role of the Internet in social and economic development that benefits the African community.

The AFRINIC staff members involved in the FIRE Africa program are:

1. Alan Barrett – Chief Executive Officer
2. Vymala Thuron - Head of External Relations
3. Mwendwa Kivuva - Manager
4. Patrisse Deesse – Finance & Accounts Director

AFRINIC staff also contributes, by request, to specific tasks such as financial reporting, the development of publications, travel and event logistics, and technical support for online platforms/services.

2.2. APNIC and small grants in the Asia Pacific region

Now headquartered in Brisbane, Australia, APNIC (the Asia Pacific Network Information Center) was founded in 1993, in Tokyo as the RIR for the Asia Pacific region. APNIC's service region comprises the 56 economies of the Asia Pacific stretching from Afghanistan in the west to the Pacific islands in the east (as well as the economies of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan). APNIC, like the other RIRs, is a non-profit, membership-based organization, and a key member of today's "multi stakeholder" environment of Internet technical management, coordination and governance.

APNIC is focused on five strategic goals:

1. Deliver advanced number registry and Member information services
2. Strengthen APNIC's core technical focus (such as IPv6, RPKI and DNSSEC) and engage its community to advance adoption and deployment
3. Sustainably support AP Internet infrastructure and human capacity development
4. Engage the APNIC community to strengthen open, multi-stakeholder, bottom-up and transparent policy development processes and Internet governance model
5. Maintain a strong organization to carry out APNIC's mission

Under its Bylaws, APNIC core registration services are complemented with a duty to promote infrastructure development, educational opportunities, and public policy. In response, APNIC provides an extensive technical training program, which it delivers right across its region. It works closely with many technical, academic, and operator communities to organize training and outreach events. APNIC has also invested significantly in the deployment of Internet root servers throughout the region, which have brought important benefits to the performance and development of Internet services in many economies.

APNIC has strong community support and functions in a bottom-up way, via processes that are open to input from all interested stakeholders. While its office is based in Australia, APNIC is a regional organization, with staff from almost 20 different national and linguistic backgrounds and members in almost all 56 economies. APNIC also contributes to global policy discussions and represents the interests of the Asia Pacific Internet addressing community in many forums, including the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). APNIC's role has been formally recognized with accreditation by the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation TELMIN (APECTEL) forum and the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). APNIC also has considerable experience in providing dedicated secretariat support for other organizations, specifically the Address Supporting Organization (ASO) – one of the Supporting Organizations of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) – and the Number Resource Organization (NRO), which represents the joint interests of the combined RIRs.

APNIC was a founding partner of IDRC's PAN Asia Networking initiative, a small grants program that started in 1997 supporting 25 projects with CAD1.5 million. A second phase was launched in 2001 as the "ICT R&D Grants Programme for Asia and the Pacific" in a funding partnership with APNIC, the Asia Pacific Development Information Program (APDIP), the Asian Media Information and Communication Centre (AMIC), the Internet Society and Microsoft. The program was designed as a competitive grants scheme available to institutions in the developing



countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

AMIC administered this phase (Nov 2001 - May 2008), awarding 56 grants. The programme received a total of 642 project proposals from over 30 AP economies. The last round of competition was held in 2005 and it was followed by the development of a Learning Forum for past grant recipients that provided feedback for future development and was the basis for an internal evaluation and reporting exercise conducted by AMIC, APDIP and IDRC that looked at the program's impact and administration. A third phase started with the launch of ISIF Asia in 2008 under a new funding partnership between IDRC, Internet Society and APNIC with additional annual sponsorship provided by the Dot Asia Organization.

Between its founding in 2008 and October 2011, ISIF Asia awarded 670,000 AUD in grants to 23 initiatives from 12 economies in the Asia Pacific region, showcasing innovation, cooperation, and technical knowledge. The ISIF Asia program conducted an internal review and evaluation in 2010 and lessons learned from this process were incorporated into the development of a new framework for 2012-2015.

The APNIC staff involved in ISIF Asia will be:

1. Paul Wilson – Director General
2. Duncan Macintosh – Development Director
3. Sylvia Cadena – Community Partnerships Specialist
4. Siena Perry – Communications Manager
5. Irene Chan – Financial Controller

Additional APNIC staff from the Communications and Technical Areas will also contribute, but by request only and focused on specific tasks such as the development of publications and technical support for online platforms/services.

ISIF Asia sits in APNIC's Development section supporting Goal 3 to "Sustainably support AP Internet infrastructure and human capacity development". One of the key strategies in achieving this goal is via "Partnerships: working with others in attracting resources and implementing development strategies". ISIF Asia allows APNIC to better implement this strategy and so achieve one of its core strategic goals.

In addition to ISIF Asia, the Development section also conducts and manages the following activities: 1) technical training; 2) technical assistance (including infrastructure support); 3) community development (event sponsorships, fellowships); 4) policy development, and; 5) funding partnerships. As part of these activities, ISIF Asia's small grants and awards program also creates a strategic opportunity for APNIC:

- To invest in the development of the community in which it operates and give back to the community it serves.
- To maintain and diversify its financial and capacity building support for Internet related research & development.
- To recognize technical innovation and contributions to Internet development in a multi-stakeholder environment.
- To expand its regional reach and establish new community partnerships.
- To further improve the internal processes and procedures used in the management of external funds and strengthen its transparency and accountability.



For these reasons, ISIF Asia is fully integrated into APNIC's strategic goals and strategies and plays an important role in the development of its community.

With 6,000 Members in almost every nation of the Asia Pacific, APNIC has spent 20 years supporting the Internet to serve the region's 3 billion citizens. Many of its 70-plus staff travel regularly to events and activities around the region to support the needs of Members, provide training and technical assistance, or share expertise and information. APNIC also partners with many organizations through MoUs, sponsorships and informally to support the continuing development of the Internet. The APNIC Foundation will build on these strengths and APNIC's strong history of success in training and community development.

Further strengthening its commitment to Internet development in the region, in September 2016, The APNIC Foundation was formally incorporated in Hong Kong. Under its charter, the Foundation will "advance education, on a non-profit making basis, in technical, operational and policy matters relating to Internet infrastructure, through undertaking or funding activities in Hong Kong and elsewhere in the Asia and the Pacific region". The incorporation followed an important decision in 2014 by the APNIC Executive Council (EC) to explore a Foundation mechanism to support and expand the APNIC Development Program by raising funds, independently from APNIC membership contributions, to build our regional Internet development efforts into the future.

Projects and activities funded by the Foundation will be designed and managed by APNIC, in collaboration with funding partners interested in Internet development. Activities will be implemented by APNIC and our partners, which include a growing group of community trainers and technical advisors, and other like-minded organizations. A priority will be to support and build the capacity of these partners, and to spend Foundation funds in the region.

The primary focus of the APNIC Foundation will be human capacity building; to advance professional development among APNIC's core community, the network operators who are building and running the Internet in our region. Along with training and education, the Foundation will also support direct technical assistance which is required in many specific circumstances.

Priority topics for this work will include: security of Internet and DNS infrastructure, promotion and deployment of IPv6, development of exchange points and related infrastructure, and promotion of best operational practices. For more information on the Foundation⁴.

2.3 LACNIC and small grants in Latin America and the Caribbean

Headquartered in Montevideo, Uruguay, the Latin America and Caribbean Network Information Centre (LACNIC) is the Regional Internet Registry for 33 economies of the Latin American and Caribbean region.

In 2003, the FRIDA program was established as a funding partnership between the IDRC PAN Americas program,

⁴ APNIC Foundation <https://apnic.foundation>.



the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) and LACNIC to:

- Promote the development of regional research capacity in ICT4D
- Promote technical capacity relating to the Internet and other technological applications,
- Promote digital inclusion, and
- Strengthen and promote the Information Society within the countries of the LAC region.

Contributions from IDRC, ICA, LACNIC, Internet Society and the Global Knowledge Partnership (GKP), supported 26 research projects developed by organizations from 13 different countries of the region during 2004 and 2005. During 2006 the supported projects finalized their activities and an external evaluation was conducted to learn valuable lessons about FRIDA's administration and impact within the region.

A second phase was conducted from 2007 to 2009 through two calls for proposals, supporting 31 projects from 14 economies. For 2010 and 2011, the FRIDA program launched the FRIDA Awards which offered a new type of support focused more on providing acknowledgement and recognition to successful initiatives in the advanced stages of development. The FRIDA awards conducted two calls for applications, and granted 15 awards to initiatives from six economies.

Since 2003 under the FRIDA program, around 1.6 USD million have been granted to ICT4D projects in the Latin American Region. LACNIC staff involved in the supervision and management of FRIDA program include:

- Oscar Robles – CEO
- Ernesto Majó – Deputy CEO
- Laura Kaplan – Development and Cooperation Manager
- Carolina Caeiro – Coordinator of Development Projects
- María Gayo – Communications Manager
- Diego Mena – Finance and Accounting Manager (CFO)

Other members of the LACNIC staff also contribute to support activities involving communication, financial administration, IT support, among other.

3. Seed Alliance strategic objective

The Seed Alliance seeks to help ideas to grow and achieve scale by providing small grants and awards for Internet development and digital innovation. The contributions from the Seed Alliance partners and regional sponsors support the allocation of small grants and awards for each region, plus a variety of collaborative efforts on capacity building and networking. Over 2 million USD has been allocated in grants and awards to support and help scale projects throughout Africa, the Asia Pacific, and Latin America, helping to strengthen and promote the Information Society within and across these regions.

As members of the Alliance, FIRE Africa, FRIDA and ISIF Asia aim to contribute to the development of Information Societies in their respective regions by: (a) funding projects through small grants and (b) by recognizing and rewarding innovative approaches in the use of Information and Communication Technologies

through awards. Regional variations of these funding mechanisms allow each program to respond to local expectations and requirements. The strategic objective reflects the basic focus of the three regional programs to facilitate monitoring and comparison:

“Offer opportunities to scale-up digital innovations to project teams that support economic growth and social development”

- What do we mean by opportunities to scale-up? The Seed Alliance regional program members offer organizations opportunities to scale their activities by providing funding (different type of grants, awards), training, mentoring and/or networking support
- What do we mean by digital innovations? The Seed Alliance identifies solutions (software tools, devices, research outcomes according to each regional set of criteria and categories) that make strategic use of Internet technologies in an innovative way.
- What do we mean by project teams? The Seed Alliance supports groups of entrepreneurs, researchers and activists that are not necessarily working on the same organizations to get together to implement proposed projects in a specific economy, across one of the regions covered or inter-regionally. We refer to them as project teams.
- What do we mean by that support economic growth and social development? The Seed Alliance supported projects responding to the needs, and challenges that different communities face, looking to bring positive change to communities across the global south.

Each regional program designs and defines its own strategies to reach the objective, providing them with the flexibility and autonomy to operate. The three regional programs also offer their own approach through:



Seed Alliance strategic objective, supporting pillars and M&E framework (2012-2015)

The Seed Alliance also shares a common monitoring and evaluation framework, fed by data collected through the online application system(s), technical reports, financial reports, site visits, surveys and ranking assessment system for supported projects designed during the first phase of the Alliance. For this second round the objectives for each



regional program will be refined, as follows:

FIRE Africa	FRIDA	ISIF Asia
<p>Support research that can help the development of affordable and efficient Internet infrastructure, and Internet growth in Africa</p> <p>Maintain and diversify support for Internet related research and development</p> <p>Provide small grants and awards that focus on increasing social and economic development to benefit African users and communities</p> <p>Develop and promote the adoption of innovative applications and services</p> <p>Facilitate networking and information building within the Internet community</p> <p>Support individual rights awareness and strengthen trust between organizations and individuals in the region</p> <p>Build capacity and encourage entrepreneurship through exchange, dialogue, mentorship, and training</p>	<p>Contribute to the development of the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean region by funding research and innovation on Internet technologies</p> <p>Promote the development of technical capacities relating to the Internet and other technological applications</p> <p>Strengthen and promote the information Society within the countries of the region</p>	<p>Support research on Internet operations, infrastructure, technologies and protocols, conducted within the Asia Pacific region.</p> <p>Support implementation and refinement of digital solutions that make strategic use of Internet technologies in an innovative way, responding to the needs and challenges that different communities face.</p> <p>Provide higher visibility and share evidence of the positive influence that the Internet is having in the Asia Pacific region, and in particular the contributions from Asia Pacific digital innovators to these developments.</p> <p>Build the capacities needed by organizations and their project teams, to scale-up their solutions; whether through better management, fundraising, or partnership development.</p>

3.1 Evaluation against agreed indicators

The three regional programs continue to participate in one collective evaluation process driven by regional program’s needs, and ultimately the overall Seed Alliance needs. Data collected from the application and selection processes, as well as technical and financial reports from funding recipients will feed into the evaluation framework.

For the purposes of this new grant period, the three regional programs will update the evaluation framework to monitor indicators based on the following:

1. **Scaling:** Two innovations scaled per region (six in total) that address challenges according to the regional funding categories.
2. **Leaders:** 10 digital innovators supported per region (30 in total) to increase their skills and capacity to innovate and bring positive change to their communities through research, policy and digital solutions.
3. **Partners:** one new partner per region (3 in total), leveraging on the RIRs’ networks, to diversify funding and establish links with the Internet industry in each region.



3.1.1 FIRE Africa

Indicator / Scaling: Two innovations scaled per region (six in total) that address challenges according to the regional funding categories.

FIRE Africa allocated three scale-up grants of 30,000 USD each were allocated as follows:

- **LibreRouter. University of the Western Cape, South Africa:** The LibreRouter project will design and produce a high performance multi-radio wireless router targeted at Community Networks' needs, especially considering cost, power consumption, respect for voice communication through VoIP and legal viability.
- **Gamified Lesson and Quizzes for Dumbphones and Smartphones, Ubongo Kids, Tanzania:** Through this project, Ubongo provides gamified lessons and quizzes to viewers via interactive SMS (for basic mobile phones and feature phones) and via an Android App. Ubongo has already created a library of over 3000 quiz questions that go along with its Ubongo Kids TV episodes and topics, and have delivered these to over 120,000 users on the Tigo Mobile network in Tanzania during a 1 year beta test. Through this project Ubongo plans to: Expand the library of quiz questions to include lessons and tutorials in Mathematics and Science for Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda for Classes 2-5 in both Kiswahili and English, build an API (application program interface) to allow other mobile learning partners, including Eneza Education and Shule Direct, to directly pull quiz questions to their platforms, and build an Android game which delivers the same quiz questions in through a series of fun games starring Ubongo's cartoon characters.
- **The NatiV Project, Purple Zoom (Private) Limited, Zimbabwe:** NatiV is an award-winning project that aims to create mobile mother-tongue learning solutions for children, including those that have reading disabilities and those that live in marginalized communities. The solutions span mobile games and apps that are feature-rich and engaging, as well as native language text-to-speech technologies.

Indicator / Leaders: 10 digital innovators supported per region to increase their skills and capacity to innovate and bring positive change to their communities through research, policy and digital solutions.

achieving the objectives and expectations of participants. The participants were also positive they will use the knowledge shared to improve their communities. Some participants said the workshop was short, and preferred longer training days, and more discussions during the workshop.

11 FIRE Africa Fellows to AIS'16 African Internet Summit. 7-9 June (Gaborone, Botswana)

Ian Nyasha Mutamiri	Purple Zoom (Private) Limited	Zimbabwe	Male
Elitcha Komi Mokpokpo Woaatéba	Lomé Unix Linux Users Group (LULug)	Togo	Male
Michael Felix Jacob	Cryptic Concepts And Perceptions Nigeria Limited	Nigeria	Male
Abiri Oluwatosin Niyi	CrowdMapIT	Nigeria	Male
Wilberforce Seguton	Bunifu Internet Security	Kenya	Male
Mr. Samuel Akinoluwa Akinsola	Botswana Youth Empowerment Projects	Botswana	Male
Chancel Malanga Mathoy Mata	Eagle Sight Sarl	DR Congo	Male
Tidiane BALL	Malisanté	Mali	Male
Florence Toffa	Mobile Web Ghana	Ghana	Female



Reuben Mungai	Incaps Africa	Kenya	Male
Lebo Khanda	Botho University	Botswana	Female

Leadership Skills, project management and business pitching workshop. 28-29 November 2016. Mauritius.

Achomo Lillian Ruth	Afchix	Uganda	Female
Didas Mwachila Mzirai	21st Century Digital farmer	Kenya	Male
Carlos Rey-Moreno	University of Western Cape (UWC)	South Africa	Male
Lisette Emmanuelle Waffo	Bibliotheque Le Pavillon Blanc	Cameroon	Female
Onencan Francis Onek	BOSCO Uganda	Uganda	Male
Nisha Ferguson Ligon	Ubongo	Tanzania	Female
Nyandwi Emmanuel	Rwanda Gender Based Violence monitor	Rwanda	Male
Kaltumi Inya Abdulazeez	etrash2cash	Nigeria	Female
Ian Mutamiri	The NatiV Project	Zimbabwe	Male

FIRE Africa continues to support past recipients with networking opportunities. Ian Mutamiri, a past FIRE Africa recipient and current scale-up grant winner was helped by the program link with academics in the informatics and robotics research space, Centre for Telecommunications Research at the King's College London. He also attended a conference that was hosted by the Royal Academy of Engineering where he got to learn about the investment space in Europe.

Indicator / Partners: Partners: one new partner per region (3 in total), leveraging on the RIRs' networks, to diversify funding and establish links with the Internet industry in each region.

Fire Africa got additional support as follows; Google Africa offered a support of US\$50,000 for year 2016, and US\$50,000 for year 2017. Oracle Cooperation offered US\$50,000 for year 2017.

3.1.2 FRIDA

Scaling: Two innovations scaled per region (six in total) that address challenges according to the regional funding categories.

FRIDA allocated two scale-up grants of 40,000 USD were allocated as follows:

- Speaking with Julis 3.0. HCJ, Colombia.** Hablando con Julis (HCJ) is a digital solution for people with speaking, reading and writing difficulties. Recognized by the MIT Technology Review as the Social Innovation of the Year in 2015, at the time of submission, this development had already reached more than 5,000 users in Latin America. Julis is a 24-year-old young woman who was born with a speaking disability; her family led the initial development of this technology to help her communicate. The HCJ solution helps users communicate, improve their pronunciation, and learn to read and write in short periods of time. HCJ targets users aged 3 to 85 with speech difficulties, Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy as well as adults with loss of speech due to illness, and illiterate populations. As part of the scale-up grant, the project will work on two fronts: First, Software improvements to prepare the product for new markets. Specifically, the new software will be offered in Spanish and English, and incorporate a diagnostic tool to determine the communication level for each user. And second, marketing efforts to expand the number of users of the solution. The project will



resort to the establishment of alliances and concession contracts with government agencies as a strategy for gaining scale.

- LibreRouter. AlterMundi Civil Association, Argentina.** Community Networks have been depending since their inception on modifying existing of-the-shelf routers to adapt them to their particular needs. Software development in Community Network and the Free Software movement as a whole have pushed the barrier of innovation and helped commercial enterprises develop new products over the years. This virtuous relation between hardware vendors and the community has been threatened by new regulation from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) - U.S.A.- which has led vendors to globally close up their routers to third party modifications, shutting the door to Community Networks in terms of access to the hardware they depend on. The LibreRouter project will design and produce a high performance multi-radio wireless router targeted at Community Network’s needs. This project was selected together with the University of Western Cape (described above) for the Interregional Grant. The funding assigned by FRIDA to the LibreRouter Project will be used primarily for the development of the hardware, that is defining specifications, prototypes, main board, and funding the production of the initial batch of LibreRouter devices. Please, see “Section 8. Interregional Grant” for more information.

Indicator / Leaders: 10 digital innovators supported per region to increase their skills and capacity to innovate and bring positive change to their communities through research, policy and digital solutions.

The FRIDA program identified 13 project leaders through the 2016 call for grants and awards. With funding from IDRC, Internet Society and LACNIC, these project leaders and their teams are accessing networking opportunities and mentoring as specified in the tables below. More details about these forms of support are provided in Section 9 of this report (Capacity Building). FRIDA will continue to support these leaders until the completion of their projects, communicating relevant opportunities and, when possible, resorting to available program funding to accompany the development of specific capacity building and networking actions. It is expected the project will identify at least 6 additional regional leaders in 2017.

IGF 2016. Mexico

The two 2016 Award Winners received: IGF travel grant including participation in Seed Alliance Awards Ceremony, Social Event and Booth. Special participation in IGF Workshop on Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Global South.

Margaret Bernard	AgriNeTT, FRIDA Award 2016	Trinidad and Tobago	Female
Eduardo Martín-Borregón	Mexicoleaks, FRIDA Award 2016	Spain/Mexico	Male

The Internet Society Grantees received: IGF travel grant including participation in Seed Alliance Social Event and Booth. Special participation in IGF Workshop on Cybersecurity Initiatives in and by the Global South. Mentoring from evaluators Jesús Martínez (RENATA) and Edmundo Vitale Dori (UNICAMP).

Erika Vega	RENATA, Internet Society Cybersecurity Grant	Colombia	Female
Marcelo Palma Salas	State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Internet Society Cybersecurity Grant	Bolivia/Brazil	Male



Ashoka Mentoring Support

The 2016 Scale-up Grantees received:

- Hablando con Julis: Mentoring from Ashoka, including both work with Ashoka staff and Accenture.
- AlterMundi: Mentoring from Ashoka. Regional mentors to be identified. Mentoring session on business model to be coordinated under interregional grant.

Daniela Galindo	Hablando con Julis, Scale-up Grant	Colombia	Female
Nicolás Echaniz	AlterMundi, Scale-up Grant	Argentina	Male

Mentoring support from Evaluators

Under FRIDA's revamped Evaluation and Monitoring activities, the following project leaders are receiving the tailored mentoring from Evaluators Ida Holz (UNCU); Amparo Arango (UNESP and UNT); and Juan Manuel Casanueva (Perpendicular).

Camila García	National Union of the Blind, IDRC Grant	Uruguay	Female
Gabriel Soto	National Union of the Blind, IDRC Grant	Uruguay	Male
Anya Orlova	State University of Sao Paulo (UNESP), IDRC Grant	Russia/Brazil	Female
Francisco Caminatti	State University of Sao Paulo (UNESP), IDRC Grant	Brazil	Male
Andrea Valladares	Perpendicular, IDRC Grant	Guatemala	Female
Onice Arango	Perpendicular, IDRC Grant	Guatemala	Female
Sergio Saade	University of Tucuman, LACNIC Grant	Argentina	Male

Indicator / Partners: one new partner per region (3 in total), leveraging on the RIRs' networks, to diversify funding and establish links with the Internet industry in each region.

During this period, LACNIC has approached Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations, the Inter-American Development Bank and Google for program support, though no additional contributions, in cash or in kind, have yet been secured. These and new opportunities will be actively pursued in 2017. Additionally, Carolina Caeiro, Coordinator of Development Projects, participated in the Association of Fundraising Professionals Conference in Boston, United States to hone her fundraising skills, as a means to contribute to the achievement of this specific goal.

3.1.3 ISIF Asia

Scaling: Two scale-up grants of 50,000 AUD were allocated as follows:

- **Equal Access to the Information Society in Myanmar. Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation, Myanmar:** This project focuses on women and youth, and benefits 500 people through 20 libraries across the country. The curriculum, developed specifically for Myanmar, focuses on critical thinking in a digital environment of smartphones and tablets. It develops the skills of young female leaders by providing them with specialized information technology training, leadership and job skills, and opportunities to engage in critical public discussion.



- **Khushi Baby, India:** This project improves digital medical records for mothers and children by streamlining data collection, improving decision making in the field, aiding in district resource management, and delivering effective dialect-specific voice call reminders to mothers.

Leaders: 10 digital innovators supported per region to increase their skills and capacity to innovate and bring positive change to their communities through research, policy and digital solutions.

12 project leaders were identified during the 2016 call for grants and awards. Due to budget limitations it is not expected that all 12 project leaders have access to opportunities funded under the IDRC and Internet Society grants, but the ISIF Asia secretariat actively looks for fellowships and scholarships for current and former recipients to benefit, and supports their application processes so that they can benefit from opportunities to build their leadership capacity during the second half of their implementation period, from March to August 2017, as their projects progress. During the reporting period, 3 major leadership opportunities were facilitated, as follows:

AVPN Investment Showcase and conference. Hong Kong.

Shamila Keyani	UM Health Trust	Pakistan	Female
Makkiya Jawed	DoctHers	Pakistan	Female

JFDI.Asia GoGlobal mentoring program for scale-up grants. Singapore.

Htet Aung	Book Aid and Preservation Foundation	Myanmar	Male
Mohammed Shahnawaz	Khushy Baby	India	Male

IGF 2016. Mexico

Py Wong	Tindak Malaysia	Malaysia	Male
Jeffrey Llanto	CVISNET Foundation	The Philippines	Male
Andrew Tomoina	Tonga CERT	Tonga	Male

In addition to the opportunities mentioned above (funded by IDRC) ISIF Asia continues to support previous award winners and grant recipients' leadership roles providing reference letters and actively participating in due-diligence review processes from other programs. During 2016, Nancy Margried, from Batik Fractal, Indonesia received support to apply for the Chevening Scholarship in the United Kingdom. She is currently in London completing her studies.

For 2017, leadership opportunities will be identified for the following organization, encouraging women members of project teams:

Murdoch University	Australia
Telco2	New Zealand
University of Auckland	New Zealand
Swinburne University	Australia
Legalese	Singapore
Riphah International University	Pakistan



Tonga CERT	Tonga
MDRU / CVISNET Foundation	The Philippines
Tindak Malaysia	Malaysia
The Asia Foundation	Thailand
Ateneo de Manila University	The Philippines

Partners: one new partner per region (3 in total), leveraging on the RIRs’ networks, to diversify funding and establish links with the Internet industry in each region.

During this reporting period, APNIC was finalizing the establishment of the APNIC Foundation to be able to pursue different donors and partners, under a framework more flexible and conducive for development work. The Foundation was finally incorporated at the end of September 2016 and since then, we have approached several aid agencies and foundations, including The Asia Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, Australian Department of Foreign Aid and Trade, Ford Foundation and Google. No funding has been confirmed from September to November 2016.

4. Governance and work methodology

The three regional programs share similar objectives and scope, aligned with the IDRC Strategic Plan 2015-2020. Specifically, the Seed Alliance aligns with IDRC strategic objectives to “Invest in knowledge and innovation for large-scale positive change” and “Build the leaders for today and tomorrow”. The Seed Alliance operates on the following guidelines:

As per the approved grant proposal, each regional program is managed independently and autonomously under a separate funding agreement with IDRC. FIRE Africa, FRIDA and ISIF Asia conducted separate calls for funding under different modalities, which suited regional conditions and priorities.

A shared secretariat function supports the design and development of collaborative activities, with LACNIC leading the implementation of the activities around the Internet Society grant, and APNIC leading the activities under the IDRC grant.

All three RIRs adhere to principles of transparency and accountability for administration of funds. Information about how the funds from other partners and sponsors have been allocated to specific tasks, is included in different sections across this report, as agreed on the grant proposal approved.

4.1 Seed Alliance Executive Council

The IDRC external evaluation recommended that “a new light touch governance system should be adopted including a Seed Alliance Executive Council among RIRs with an annual meeting of CEOs and Program Coordinators.” To respond to this recommendation from the report, the Seed Alliance proposed the following

⁵ IDRC strategic plan 2015-2020 <http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Documents/IDRC-strategic-plan-2015-2020.PDF>



actions, and the report about the correspondent progress is listed below:

- **Proposed Action 1:** Establishing an Executive Council composed of the three executive leaders of AFRINIC, APNIC and LACNIC, filling the positions of chair (Laura Kaplan, LACNIC), convener and secretariat (Sylvia Cadena, APNIC), while IDRC and Internet Society officials will be part of the Executive Council.
 - Council effectively constituted holding its first meeting at the IGF 2015, in Joao Pessoa in 2015.
 - Since the approval of the grant, APNIC provided basic secretariat support for all activities under the Seed Alliance, through the mailing list and using googledocs basic tools.
- **Proposed Action 2:** The Executive Council will meet once or twice a year (maximum three times during the duration of this grant) to make key strategic decisions, review progress and provide guidance for operational teams. These meetings will take place based on existing opportunities when the 3 executive leaders are in the same place together. One of these meetings will be conducted during the joint awards ceremony with the council to be joined by regional program coordinators and IDRC staff.
 - The Seed Alliance Executive Council met during the IGF 2016 in Guadalajara, on 7 December for its 2016 annual meeting. The meeting included updates from the regional programs around 1) funding allocation for grants and awards; 2) mentoring for scale-ups; 3) inter-regional grant. It also included funding confirmations from LACNIC and APNIC from their own funds, both in-kind and in cash. AFRINIC confirmed additional fundraising from 2 sponsors in the region. IDRC confirmed supplement for 500K CAD for 2017 (details to be discussed) and Internet Society confirmed commitment to continue supporting but did not provided a confirmed amount. This is the first official meeting were RIPE NCC participated as future member of the Seed Alliance. They announced that the board has committed funding to officially start a program in 2017, although details are yet to be defined.
- **Proposed Action 3:** During the course of this grant, the teams supporting each one of the regional programs will share the responsibility to organize and document conference calls to follow-up on the implementation of the IDRC and Internet Society grants. The conference calls will be documented using AgreeDo⁶ or a similar platform, to ensure easily follow-up on agenda items. The Executive Council will be notified after completion of a conference call, and before face to face meetings. It was recommended to have a conference call at least once every two months, starting from when the grant gets approved, and to have at least nine conference calls throughout this grant.
 - Carolina Caeiro from LACNIC has coordinated the conference calls around Internet Society grant, while Sylvia Cadena from APNIC has coordinated the ones among coordinators for the IDRC grant. Although not only platform has been used so far, the follow-up has been done though the team@seedalliance.net mailing list.
 - During the first year of implementation only 2 official conference calls have been conducted with all 3 programs present. Most coordination continues to be done through other channels due to time zone differences, difficult to find availability during travel. Coordination is done through the team@seedalliance.net mailing list among regional program coordinators and managers, as well as

⁶ AgreeDo www.agreedo.com



through skype chat, on a one-to-one basis.

During the previous grant cycle APNIC implemented a private site using Google Business Sites⁷ to support the Seed Alliance team. As this grant cycle started, APNIC updated the site and simplify its functionalities. The site includes a set of online groups and additional collaborative tools for the use of the alliance. However, the mailing lists continue to be the most used mechanism to share information and communicate with project partners.

As agreed on the approved proposal mailing lists and email are used at the discretion of each regional program, based on their programming needs, as follows:

- AFRINIC maintains the following mailing lists:
 - announce@fireafrica.org General interest group for anybody interested about the FIRE Africa program. Used for announcements, news, and funding opportunities.
 - grants@fireafrica.org For Grants and awards recipients. Share announcements with all 40 projects supported since 2010, around funding opportunities, training, articles
 - selection@fireafrica.org For FIRE Africa Grants Selection Committee. used during selection process for notifications, ratification, deadlines, final decision, and changes about programing.
- LACNIC maintains a general purpose mailing list for wide announcements to the community: infofrida@lacnic.net.
- APNIC maintains the following mailing lists:
 - team@seedalliance.net / project team coordinators and direct supervisors. Daily use.
 - partners@seedalliance.net / all contributing partners. Announcements.
 - gc@isif.asia / Selection Committee. For use during selection process for notifications, deadlines and final decisions.
 - sc@isif.asia / Steering Committee. Only use for announcements, ratification of final decisions and changes about programing.
 - grants@isif.asia / Grants and awards recipients. Share announcements with all 81 projects supported since 2018, around funding opportunities, training, articles, etc.
 - news@isif.asia / General interest group. 2367 subscribers, used for announcements.

4.2 Seed Alliance secretariat role

During this grant cycle, APNIC continues to host the secretariat activity for the current project for the IDRC grant, while LACNIC has taken the task to coordinate the Internet Society secretariat role.

The Seed Alliance secretariat activity for the IDRC grant is hosted within APNIC's Development Area, and receives assistance from across the organization, including the Business Area (Finance, Office and Travel Units), Communications Area and Technical Area. No staff has been specifically hired directly for the role as APNIC relies

⁷ Google site: <https://sites.google.com/a/seedalliance.net/seed-alliance-coordination/>



on existing staff resources, practices and procedures to support the secretariat. APNIC will outsource when required and as approved by the Coordination Team as well as the Executive Council, if need be. The secretariat continues to coordinate, based on input submitted by LACNIC and AFRINIC, the production of:

- Two technical reports (this one, half-way through the life of the grant, plus the final one upon completion).
- Update of Seed Alliance online tools (website, dissemination efforts map, etc) including links to supported projects technical reports and keep repository of Seed Alliance documentation (currently on Google Drive).
- Technical support for mailing lists hosting and management and any other online tool required for secretariat support.
- Facilitating coordination among the three partners to maximize collaboration and resource sharing, as described below.

The Seed Alliance secretariat activity for the Internet Society grant is hosted by LACNIC's Development and Cooperation Area, and receives assistance from across the organization, including the Communications Department, the Technology Department, Membership Services Department and Finance and Administration Department. No staff has been specifically hired directly for the role as LACNIC relies on existing staff resources, practices and procedures to support the secretariat. The secretariat coordinate, based on input submitted by APNIC and AFRINIC, the following activities:

- Coordination with Internet Society's lead contact, Ilda Simao
- Joint Technical and Financial Reports to Internet Society (progress reports and final reports)
- Social event for the IGF
- Communication products and efforts as agreed on the approved proposal

Each regional program produced its own Financial Report to IDRC, as per the final budgets approved after the proposal was negotiated. Funds allocated for secretariat activities are reported by APNIC, as part of its report.

In the case of Internet Society, a specific template has been developed for joint financial reporting which includes period expenses against approved budgets, consolidated budgets and support documentation for each transaction. As per the technical report, Internet Society has approved the use of the same template submitted to IDRC with minor modifications relevant to Internet Society.

4.3 Regional programs secretariat role

AFRINIC, APNIC and LACNIC continue to absorb substantial staff and administration expenses, in order to maximize the amount of funding available to support the communities they serve.

In addition to the funding contributions to the grants and awards pool confirmed by APNIC and LACNIC⁸, each registry has supported their regional programs to access their network of members and industry partners; supported the coordinators of the regional programs to attend relevant conferences and events with their own funding; invested considerable efforts to raise funding for program continuation; provide travel support and access to office and teleconferencing facilities, including state-of-the-art connectivity, access to financial systems and

⁸ AFRINIC did not commit funds for the grants and awards pool for 2016 and 2017, as per the grant proposal approved.



processes, webhosting, equipment.

In addition, APNIC and LACNIC contribute the full salary of the regional program coordinators, as well as a percentage of the salaries and benefits for staff from other areas that support the work conducted. The RIRs are capturing those contributions to provide a full picture of the contributions provided, both in cash and in-kind, included in the Budget section of this report.

Each regional program has actively looked for other sponsors and partners to be able to reduce the administration costs based on scale. This allows more funds to go directly into the grants and awards pool and capacity building activities. AFRINIC, APNIC and LACNIC are receiving additional support from the Internet Society while AFRINIC has negotiated additional sponsorships from Google and Oracle, as described on this report.

During the reported period and until the end of this grant (October 2017), FIRE Africa, FRIDA and ISIF Asia are committed to continue to host the administrative functions and technical infrastructure for each regional program. A summary is provided for each one, as listed in the table below.

While each program is autonomous and independent, an important opportunity provided by the Seed Alliance is to facilitate collaboration in many of these activities, sharing work products and resources, ideas and lessons learned, and to thereby ensure that each can do its work better. On the table below, key areas for collaboration and a summary are described.

Roles	FIRE Africa	FRIDA	ISIF Asia
Staffing for program planning and delivery	Mwendwa Kivuva hired on April 2016, full time employment with 50% of time to support FIRE Africa.	Carolina Caero hired in September 2015, full time employment with 35% of time to support FRIDA.	Sylvia Cadena manages ISIF Asia since 2008, full time employment with 30% of time to support ISIF Asia and 10% for Seed Alliance secretariat.
Design and implementation of communications strategies with stakeholders for program promotion	Regular communication with the AFRINIC departments that support the FIRE Africa program on ad-hoc basis. These departments are Finance and Accounting, Communication and Public Relations, IT and engineering, and CEO's office	Regular meetings held LACNIC's Communications Department to promote program and showcase recipients work as shown in FRIDA's Twitter ⁹ and Facebook ¹⁰ accounts and FRIDA Blog ¹¹ . Regular outreach to Internet Society and IDRC regional offices to coordinate communication efforts for call for proposals and communication milestones such as Awards Ceremony.	Monthly meetings with APNIC Communications Area team to follow-up on implementation tasks. Regular outreach to Internet Society and IDRC regional offices to coordinate communication efforts for call for proposals and communication milestones such as Awards Ceremony. Partners mailing list use for coordination purposes.
Effective online tools (including regional program websites, application, selection, mailing lists and other electronic communication services such as social media as each regional program see fit)	FIRE Africa updated the online tool to incorporate the requirements for the 2016-2017 funding cycle. A complete update of the system is yet to be realized based on the feedback from the 2016 application and selection cycle. FIRE Africa also setup social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter.	FRIDA conducted in revamping of all of its online tools, including: - New website ¹² launch in March 2016 and new institutional video ¹³ - Ongoing development of new application tool for 2017 application cycle. In 2016, the organization hired SocialLab ¹⁴ and employed their online application system. - Development of a new online reporting tool which is being tested in December 2016 with the first round of grantees' progress reports. APNIC has provided strong support in the development of the online reporting tool with the purpose of identifying common needs. Official presentation to FIRE and ISIF pending for 2017.	ISIF Asia supported FIRE Africa through their first stages to update their website platform for easier processing for 2017 applications. ISIF Asia online application and selection system updated Q1 2016 based on feedback from 2015 applicants survey and selection committee input. Mailing lists in use and active social media presence. Marketing automatization process started Q4 2016. Input for online reporting tool designed by LACNIC was provided in Q3, waiting to provide feedback about designed platform.
Legal review of grant agreement documents, consultancy contracts, MoUs, travel grant letters, privacy statements and data collection policies according to relevant jurisdictions	Grant agreement from past template. Consultancy contracts developed.	Review of all grant and award contracts. Following ISIF Asia's lead, it is programmed to shorten and simplify grant agreements in 2017.	Grant agreements simplified Q2 2016. All templates updated Q2 2016. Privacy policy updated according to new/more stringent Australian regulations.
Identification of potential funding partners and sponsors at both Seed Alliance and regional level	Internet Society funding for grants confirmed for 2016. Google grant of 50,000 USD for year 2016, and 50,000 USD for year 2017 and Oracle grant of 50,000 USD negotiated for year 2017	Internet Society funding for cybersecurity grants confirmed for 2016. FRIDA has held meetings with Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations, IADB and Google for potential program support. Follow-up to continue in 2017, as well as renewed fundraising efforts with new potential partners.	Internet Society funding for cybersecurity grants confirmed for 2016. No additional funding confirmed from any other sponsor for 2016 yet. Negotiations for 2017 are underway.
Event facilitation and logistics	2 workshops for recipients. FIRE Africa coordinated the logistics for its award winners to attend the IGF.	For the IGF, FRIDA coordinated: - the Social Event for the IGF ¹⁵ , with the support of ISIF Asia.	ISIF Asia coordinated the logistics for travel, agenda and networking activities for recipients attending the AVPN Investment

⁹ <https://twitter.com/programafrida>

¹⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/FondoRegionalFRIDA/>

¹¹ <http://programafrida.net/novedades>

¹² <http://programafrida.net/>

¹³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQ6uFuz2IOc>

¹⁴ <http://postulaciones.programafrida.net/>

¹⁵ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/seedalliance/sets/72157676161970160>

Roles	FIRE Africa	FRIDA	ISIF Asia
	FIRE Africa drafted the proposal for workshop on entrepreneurship, confirmed speakers and managed the remote participation. It also drafted and submitted the workshop report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submitted proposal for workshop on cybersecurity¹⁶. Defined agenda and logistics. - Preparation and printing of all communication materials for IGF. - Actively supported logistics for booth - Actively supported logistics for awards Ceremony. - Supported workshop on entrepreneurship¹⁷ in which LACNIC's Head of Strategic Relations, Kevon Swift, served as moderator. - Panelist for workshop on entrepreneurship. - As Internet Society's Grant Secretariat, coordinated Internet Society's participation in IGF activities with Ilda Simao. 	Showcase and JFDI.Asia GoGlobal program. For the IGF, ISIF Asia coordinated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allocation of time and location for booth and awards ceremony - Design and production of trophies for all 3 programs - Location and logistics for Social Event - Reporting for cybersecurity workshop - Panelist at workshop on entrepreneurship - Actively supported the design of all communication materials for IGF - Awards ceremony agenda - Processed payments on behalf of the three programs - As IDRC's Grant Secretariat, coordinated IDRC's participation in IGF activities and accommodation.
Structured monitoring, follow-up and evaluation of supported projects according to Seed Alliance requirements	Data for 2016 application process available on the system. 2016 grants in implementation period, no reporting submitted yet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data collected through SocialLab application tool to be manually integrated to program statistics. Most indicators agreed in 2012-15 were collected. - New application and reporting system will also collect basic statistics. - New monitoring process with grantees implemented in 2016 which includes kick-off meeting, closing meeting, and ongoing emailing and calls with evaluator and program coordinator for closer monitoring and program support. These activities were added in addition to required reporting. 	Data collected for application process 2016, as per indicators agreed on 2012-2015 framework. No data analyzed yet about 2015 grants as not all reports have been received. 2016 grants in implementation period, no reporting submitted yet. Ongoing monitoring process with grantees includes by-monthly conference calls with program coordinator for closer monitoring and program support. These activities were added in addition to required reporting.
Dissemination of project outcomes and results	New brochure, website update, blog articles and social media promotion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New FRIDA Brochure produced, new website with several sections that showcase the work of award winners and grantees, including map of projects on the home page, project database, among others. - Strong social communication campaign including social media and FRIDA Blog to promote the work of current and previous grantees and awardees. 	New brochure, website update, blog articles on both the ISIF Asia blog and APNIC blog as well as social media promotion.
Accurate record keeping and storage of data sets collected	All data sets available on the application, and selection system. No data has been exported yet	2015 applicants database finalized. 2016 applicants database in process.	2015 applicants database finalized. 2016 applicants database in process.
Financial administration and reporting	Completed on December 2016	Completed by 1 January 2017, as per grant agreement.	Completed by 1 January 2017, as per grant agreement.

¹⁶ https://www.intgovforum.org/cms/igf2016/index.php/proposal/view_public/26

¹⁷ https://www.intgovforum.org/cms/igf2016/index.php/proposal/view_public/212

5. Geographic coverage and outreach

APNIC, LACNIC and AFRINIC use their network of contacts from many sectors throughout their regions to promote the regional programs. They take advantage of many of their regular activities to help spread awareness to relevant audiences including: training workshops (normally hosted by local organizations, such as educational institutions and technical associations); regional public policy meetings; sub-regional technical meetings and regional annual events; sub-regional ISP associations, academic institutions, and operator groups as well as National Internet Registries. The outreach campaigns started with the launch of the new websites and on social media in March 2012 and have continued since then.

Each regional program covers all the economies located within the respective regions with the addition of other economies (served by ARIN and RIPE, the other Regional Internet Registries) according to appropriate geographical and cultural factors. For example, FRIDA covers economies in the Caribbean which follow under the ARIN's region. ARIN and RIPE NCC have supported the Seed Alliance and regional programs outreach activities, by distributing among their contacts information provided by the regional programs and sharing it via their twitter feeds, Facebook profiles, among other communication vehicles they used according to their regional strategies. AFRINIC, APNIC and LACNIC representatives attending the meetings/conferences from other RIRs have also made use of the reports section on their agenda, to share with the communities from the other regions about the grants and award programs.

During the selection processes, special consideration was given to applications and nominations coming from developing economies and to initiatives where the majority of the funds requested were to be invested in developing economies, as well as the special targeted areas selected by every regional program (FIRE Africa – economies emerging from conflict in Africa; FRIDA – Caribbean Islands; ISIF Asia – Pacific Islands). However, proposals are selected based on their solid technical knowledge and quality, not only the areas from where they proceed.

For the 2016 call for proposals:

- FIRE Africa received 600 applications for the grants and 58 for the awards from all 55 economies that AFRINIC covers. Nine grants and four awards were allocated for 2016, representing 10 economies. In total, FIRE Africa has supported 43 projects from 18 economies since 2012.
- FRIDA received a total of 551 applications distributed as follows: 335 grant applications, 127 Award applications and 89 scale-up grant applications. A total of 6 grants were allocated --including 1 IPv6 and 2 cybersecurity grants--, 2 scale-up grants, and 2 awards representing 7 economies.
- ISIF Asia received 301 applications for the grants and 52 nominations for the awards from 36 economies out of the 56 economies that APNIC covers. 12 grants and 2 awards were allocated for 2016, representing 9 economies. In total, since 2008, ISIF Asia has received 1408 applications and nominations from 39 economies and has supported 81 projects (56 grants and 25 awards) from 22 economies.

5.1 Languages

The official language for the global alliance is English, and each region works according to the following:



- FIRE Africa continues to work in English and French. The possibility of adding Portuguese to include lusophone countries in Africa is still under consideration, although no progress on this area was done during 2016.
- FRIDA continues to work in Spanish, English and Portuguese. This includes all application and reporting systems, official communications distributed to the FRIDA mailing list and other LACNIC lists, as well as the FRIDA website itself. On social media, FRIDA publishes in Spanish and English only.
- ISIF Asia continues to work in English. Website, applications process, selection process, guidelines and reporting tools are all available in English. ISIF Asia provides selected information on the languages that APNIC helpdesk operates, but it is only basic FAQ or specific questions by email.

5.2 Corporate image

While the regional programs have independent corporate images (including names, logos, styles, etc), the Seed Alliance has its own “branding”. APNIC’s publications team designed a logo for the Seed alliance and all three programs are using it widely in their publications, both online and offline, as members of the Seed Alliance, along with the slogan “helping ideas grow”.

During this reporting period, a new banner, brochure and stickers for the Seed Alliance were designed by LACNIC.

As for the regional programs, corporate image, the work during this reporting period was:

- FIRE Africa continued to distribute the booklet developed during the previous grant cycle. During this period, postcards about the program were produced.
- FRIDA conducted a complete image overhaul with the launch of its new website. Communication materials including brochures and stickers were also updated to reflect new image, simplified thematic categories and types of support offered by the program.
- ISIF Asia designed a new brochure, in light of the APNIC Foundation establishment.

6. Collaborative activities

For the Seed Alliance to be of benefit to all members, effective communication is essential to deliver the outcomes and achieve the impact desired. The communication principles agreed during the proposal design are:

- Effective and innovative use of Internet applications and technology;
- Cultural understanding and engagement; and
- Responsive and engaged communication teams.

During the course of this reporting period, the three regional programs continue to work together to support funding recipients, provide limited mentoring and networking opportunities and establish a framework for evaluation at both program and Seed Alliance level, as well as to secure funding for continuation and expansion of their work.



6.1 Public websites, application and selection platforms

The Seed Alliance recognizes the importance of the public websites and online platforms for application and selection as tools to help identify funding recipients in every region, providing visibility to the organizations and groups actively working on Internet development across the south. The 2016 update of the public websites, application and selection platforms is as follows:

FIRE Africa continues to use the existing customized solution, but has already engaged a consultant to upgrade the features of the platform following feedback received from the applicants and selection committee. The public website is linked to the application and selection platforms.

FRIDA opted to discontinue the use of the previous site which was shared with the other two programs, and developed a new website on WordPress. Additionally, the site was moved to the main LACNIC server cutting down on costs connected to hosting. The new website development was aimed at: revamping the program's image; improving the navigation experience of site visitors; better communicating funding opportunities and application procedures; providing a platform to promote the work of current and previous recipients; and simplifying editing capabilities for easier management by the Coordinator and Communications team at LACNIC. The website code is available for FIRE and ISIF Asia to replicate. Currently, work to integrate to the site a new application and reporting platform is under way. The code will also be available to FIRE and ISIF Asia for replication. The migration of the reporting system to an online platform represents a new feature for FRIDA and potentially to the Seed Alliance. As with the application platform, the reporting system also includes an interface for project evaluators to complete an assessment form. This means that the monitoring and evaluation process has been streamlined and that evaluators will report on project's progress based on the same set of guidelines.

ISIF Asia continues to use the existing customized solution, which is currently under its version 7.0. Every year, after the application rounds have concluded, feedback received from the Selection Committees and applicants is incorporated. The public website is linked to the application and selection platforms. The website continues to offer the community to vote for one of the award winners every year, so that they can receive a top-up of 1000 AUD for the Community Choice Award, based on a basic summary of the nominations received. The website allows the promotion of content on social media platforms. The selection system keeps accurate records of scores and comments provided that are used to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants to help them improve their future applications. The platform also keeps basic statistics of the application process that feed each regional program evaluation. Once the new reporting tool developed by LACNIC is presented to the Seed Alliance partners, it will be reviewed to see how it can be incorporated to the ISIF Asia website,

The Seed Alliance team follows, whenever possible, a similar calendar of activities to launch calls simultaneously, make announcements simultaneously and plan workshops and events, helping to ensure global coordination. The calendar for 2016 was as follows:

FIRE Africa opened the call for grants on 1 April and closed on 31 May. The selection process started in June and was completed in August. Due diligence review was completed on September, and contracts signed in November. The selection committee was composed of seven jurors who worked together to identify the best projects. An announcement for the nine selected grant recipients was published in September. The call for awards was opened on 1 August and closed on 2 September. Four award winners were selected and a final announcement published in



October.

In 2016, FRIDA launched a single call for proposals for all three types of support offered (Awards, Small Grants and Scale-up Grants) which opened on 14 March and closed on 13 May. The program introduced an early-bird deadline on 13 April, besides the final deadline, to encourage the early submission of applications. This mechanism allowed to monitor the progress for the various categories and reinforce communication efforts where they were most needed. Beginning on 15 May, the 551 applications received were processed along with the Selection Committee as described in section “Selection of funding recipients: platforms, criteria and process” of this report. The official announcement of winning projects was made on 24 June.

ISIF Asia opened the call for grants on 24 February and closed on 15 June. The selection process started in June and was completed in July. During the due diligence review process, one of the finalists did not pass the criteria and requirements, so the selection process went back to the committee to define the succession list and issue a final recommendation that was then ratified by APNIC senior management. The due diligence review was completed by 30 August with contracts signed. The two selection committees worked in parallel. An announcement for the selected 10 grant recipients was published on 30 August. As for the awards, the call for awards opened on 3 August and closed on 15 September. Two award winners were selected and a final announcement was published by 30 September.

All three regional programs provide funding through a combination of grants, awards and support for capacity building as described below.

6.2 Funding Categories supported

During the past four years, the regional programs focused on categories designed in the intersection between access, inclusion, openness and rights. In developing the categories for support during 2016, the three regional programs have paid particular attention to IDRC’s vision of “Knowledge, innovation, and solutions to improve the lives of people in the developing world” while focusing on two of its three strategic goals: 1) Invest in knowledge and innovation for large-scale positive change, and 2) Build the leaders for today and tomorrow. Every effort was made to ensure all three regional programs have funding modalities that are closely aligned. For 2016, the funding categories (or thematic areas of focus) are:

FIRE Africa focused on four funding categories: (1) Technical Innovation, (2) Community Development, (3) Governance Enhancement, (4) Education. FIRE Africa will give a particular focus to solutions geared towards post-conflict states and/or marginalized groups (girls and women, disabled, or physically challenged). FIRE Africa will also strongly encourage the participation of the above mentioned groups

In the case of FRIDA, and upon review with the IDRC regional office, the categories were simplified into 3 groups: (1) Internet Development: Innovative solutions for the development of an open, stable and secure Internet, including topics such as Internet access, infrastructure, Internet of things, IPv6, cybersecurity, open standards and Internet Governance; (2) Internet and Participation: Digital solutions for social inclusion, democracy strengthening, and the exercise of rights and freedoms; and (3) Internet and Communities: Digital solutions in healthcare, education, economy, industry, environment, agriculture and other areas that contribute to the socioeconomic development of communities.



ISIF Asia will focus on four categories for the: (1) Research on network operations; (2) Cybersecurity; (3) Technical innovation (access provision, electricity supply, devices, IoT, IPv6, security, privacy); (4) Community Impact (women & girls in IT, democracy enhancement, open data, applications for economic empowerment and poverty alleviation). Worth noting that the categories above were non-restrictive to the type of technology used, as long as there is a strong Internet component. For example, applications about wireless and mobile technologies can be accepted for either category as the focus is thematic.

6.3 Modalities: Scale-up investment, small grants, inter-regional grant and awards

In addition to the thematic categories, all three regional programs are experimenting with modalities for funding allocation that have different sizes of funding that target projects at a different stage of development, as follows.

- Scale-up grants: Each program allocated larger grants to projects that were more developed, accompanied by mentoring tailored to support the scale-up of their activities.
- Small grants: continuing the tradition of the regional programs, small grants to projects on early stages were also available.
- Inter-regional grant: an additional amount to top up successful applicants from either scale-up or small grants selected across at least two of the three regions to support collaboration
- Awards: Small cash prizes plus greater visibility at the awards ceremony were offered.

FIRE Africa offered in 2016:

- Technical Innovation Scale up Grant funded by IDRC / 30,000 USD (1 project)
- Education Scale up Grants funded by IDRC / 30,000 USD (2 projects)
- Community Development Grants funded by IDRC / 25,000 USD (2 projects)
- Education Grant funded by IDRC / 25,000 USD (1 project)
- Governance Enhancement Grant funded by IDRC / 25,000 USD (1 project)
- Internet Society Access provision Grants / 25,000 USD (2 projects)
- Award for Technical innovation for Internet access and development funded by IDRC / 7000 USD (2 projects)
- Award for Internet and technologies for social inclusion, strengthening democracy and the exercise of rights and freedoms funded by IDRC / 7,000 USD (1 project)
- Award for Internet and technology for social and economic development funded by Google / 7,000 USD (1 project)

FRIDA offered in 2016:

- 6 small grants as follows
 - 3 IDRC small grants of 25,000 USD each. Applications accepted for all three thematic categories.
 - 2 Internet Society small grants of 25,000 USD each. Specific thematic focus: Cybersecurity.
 - 1 LACNIC small grant of 20,000 USD. Specific thematic focus: IPv6 deployment.



- 2 Awards of 5,000 USD plus a travel package for the Awards Ceremony at the 2016 IGF. Applications accepted for all three thematic categories.
- 2 Scale-up Grants of 40,000 USD each. Applications accepted for all three thematic categories.

ISIF Asia offered in 2016:

- APNIC Internet Operations Research Grants / 115,000 AUD (3 projects)
- Internet Society Cybersecurity Grant / 56,000 AUD (1 project)
- Community Impact Scale-up Grant funded by IDRC / 50,000 AUD (1 project)
- Technical Innovation Scale-up Grant funded by IDRC / 50,000 AUD (1 project)
- Technical Innovation Small Grants funded by IDRC and APNIC / 120,000 AUD (4 projects)
- Award for Technical Innovation funded by APNIC / 7,000 AUD (1 project)
- Award for Community Impact funded by IDRC / 7,000 AUD (1 project)
- Award for Community Choice Awards funded by IDRC / 1,000 AUD (1 project)

6.4 Selection of funding recipients: platforms, criteria and process

All three regional programs are committed to the implementation of transparent selection processes, using technology to facilitate decision-making and promote participation from the communities they serve. Staff from APNIC, AFRINIC and LACNIC are not allowed to apply for funding, influence the decision-making processes or receive gifts or benefits that might create a possible conflict of interest. The details of these restrictions are included as part of the contracts of every employee and in each organization code of conduct as applicable. Selection Committee members are required also to disclose any conflicts of interest.

Each regional program has deployed online platforms to facilitate and support their selection processes, gather data from the applicants' pool for regional and Seed Alliance evaluation processes; measure regional outreach; and identify emerging issues where future investment might be needed. Each regional program assesses what tools to use according to their regional context while supporting the data collection for the Seed Alliance monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

FIRE Africa will continue to use the online system it currently uses. The process of improving the online evaluation platform started in 2016 to incorporate a better workflow for applications and the selection committee. Some of the changes that were done on the platform were modifications of the registration, contact, and application form, increase of file-size uploads, and adding new grants categories.

Based on applicants' feedback and a survey conducted in February, FRIDA identified the need to simplify its application process. With that goal, in mid-February, the program embarked in a 12-month project to development of new application platform, which is to be integrated into its new website for the 2017 selection cycle. For the 2016 cycle, the program worked on simplifying the application forms for each category; while the development of the new platform was underway, FRIDA hired SocialLab and employed their online application service¹⁸ which has been used by several organizations running calls for proposals in Latin America, including UNICEF, Digital Bank Latam,

¹⁸ <http://comunidad.sociallab.com/desafios/todos>



among other. The application for FRIDA was accessible through the FRIDA site and the SocialLab site¹⁹. The use of simplified forms -while still gathering key information needed to assess the projects- was aimed at reducing the time applicants needed to prepare a proposal and at tackling the “wear-down effect” of organizations that submit proposals every year and which was resulting in a decline in the total number of applications by 2015. In 2017, FRIDA plans to introduce a new stage for the submission of concept notes, and only projects pre-selected will be asked to submit a full-length proposal.

ISIF Asia continues to use the online system developed in 2012, which has continuously been updated and improved based on the feedback from the applicants as well as to streamline the tasks performed by members of both selection committees (the Research Grants Selection committee composed of four highly experienced Internet researchers, and the Thematic Grants Selection Committee, composed of six experts on Internet for development who conduct the assessment of the technical innovation, community impact grants and awards) and the secretariat. The system now hosts the selection processes. The module for statistics analysis was expanded and is undergoing testing. ISIF Asia is waiting for FRIDA’s deployment of the online reporting tool to be able to implement it and adding a new tool for online reporting.

The three regional programs agreed that project proposals must be aligned with funding categories as described on the previous section of this report, submitted during the allocated times for open calls for proposals, for the maximum amount allowed under each modality limits (scale-up grants, small grants). Each regional program may decide to partially fund a proposal. Administrative overheads are not funded. During the selection process, the regional programs will give consideration to regional diversity and balance. Applications from social enterprises, small and growing businesses, network operator groups, think-tanks, research centers, academia, government, non-profits and the private sector were eligible to apply. The regional program also agree that the applicant must demonstrate capacity to manage funds, conduct project activities and document outcomes effectively, within the specified budget and time limits. Below are the areas where the regional programs differ, although slightly:

- Applicants to the FIRE Africa program were required to present projects that addressed socio-economic challenges in the region of Africa and seek to diminish them through the use of technology, particularly Internet-related. Individuals may not apply unless planning to incorporate as an organization throughout the course of the grant implementation process. FIRE Africa encouraged inclusion and equality, and is open and accessible to all. One project called Afchix that encourages young girls and women to take up career opportunities in STEM was selected as a winner but the organization was not registered. The registration process is still ongoing and it has taken more time because the vetting process for non-profit making organizations takes longer than registration of companies.
- Applicants to the FRIDA program were required to address disadvantaged communities, least developed countries (LDCs) and gender equality. Individuals were not eligible to apply. Funds allocated will have to be invested within the LACNIC region. Applying organization must demonstrate capacity to manage funds, conduct project activities and document outcomes effectively, within the specified budget and time limits.
- Applicants to the ISIF Asia program were encouraged to allow for global collaboration, organizations from other regions will be allowed to submit project proposals, but only in partnership with organizations based in the Asia Pacific region (as described in the list of economies served by APNIC). Funds allocated will have to be invested

¹⁹ <http://postulaciones.programafrida.net>



within the Asia Pacific region. 4) Proposals must include a complete budget of how the funds are planned to be spent according to the budget lines approved under a very strict project timeline.

Each regional program has developed their own processes for selection according to their particular work methods and organizational arrangements, as follows:

- FIRE Africa: The selection process comprised of two phases that apply for both, grants and awards. During phase one a pre- screening process takes place, where the secretariat accepted applications if they were “in scope” (aligned with FIRE Africa objectives and selection criteria) and if they have been submitted from economies in Africa.
During phase two, the Selection Committee reviewed approved applications and produced a short list of potential funding recipients. During this step, applicants were contacted to provide clarification, additional information and/or to accept the funding offer. Once the shortlist was confirmed, the Selection Committee took a final selection.
The decisions are considered final and cannot be challenged. Selected recipients are requested to confirm their acceptance of the grants and/or awards terms and conditions. Once they accepted the offer, a public announcement was made on the FIRE Africa website and a notification was sent to the complete database of applicants, to the email addresses used to submit proposals or nominations. During the application process (not during the pre-screening) the FIRE Africa coordinator might approach applicants to assist them to better meet the eligibility criteria. For scale-up grants, an additional selection committee may be put in place for final sign-off.
- In the case of FRIDA, the organization works with an external, independent selection committee composed of ICT professionals who conduct the selection process. In 2016, FRIDA introduced changes to the composition of the committee implementing a rotation clause by which every year, half of its members must be renewed. The goal of this change was to introduce new voices and perspectives to the selection committee, pushing the program to recruit regional leaders and professionals to act as ambassadors for the program and participate in the selection process. For 2016, the exiting selection committee members were Edmundo Vitale and Valeria Betancourt; incoming members included Daniela Kreimer²⁰ (from Ashoka, who contributed only to the selection of Scale-up grantees); Juan Manuel Casanueva²¹ (Social TIC); and Antonio Moreiras²² (NIC.br).
Beyond these changes to the selection committee, in 2016 FRIDA Program conducted a single call for proposals for all three types of support: awards, small grants and scale-up grants. The priority this year was to have a quick turn-around for projects announcing the results only 5 weeks after the closing deadline.
The selection process consisted of 3 stages:
 - a. an initial screening, where proposals that did not meet basic requirements were discarded;
 - b. a pre-selection stage where the selection committee members determined, based on the proposal summary, which projects merited in-depth reviews; and
 - c. the in-depth review stage where projects were carefully analyzed by two committee members and graded according to 10 to 12 criteria.These criteria varied across the three types of support but common aspects considered included: Proposal

²⁰ <http://programafrida.net/en/archivos/team/daniela-kreimer>

²¹ <http://programafrida.net/en/archivos/team/juan-manuel-casanueva>

²² <http://programafrida.net/en/archivos/team/antonio-m-moreiras>

quality and consistency; Demonstrated need and relevance of proposed solution; Measureable and achievable objectives; Innovative nature; Impact; Capacity-building components; Execution capacity of applicant; Proposed budget; Monitoring and evaluation plan; Sustainability; and Replicability.

Transversal criteria included “gender component” and “geographic origin”. Following the in-depth review, applications were ranked and a list of top projects was generated. The final selection was made during a conference call with all selection committee members in which the jurors debated which were the most deserving projects and identified the winning projects.

Projects selected for the grants were selected from a pool of 335 applicants distributed among the three categories as follows: Internet Development (16%); Internet and Participation (43%); Internet and Communities (37%); 4% did not specify a category. Applications were received from Civil Society (56%); Government (8%); Academia (17%); Private Sector (16%); 2% of applicants did not specify type of institution.

Projects selected for the awards were selected from a pool of 127 applicants distributed among the three categories as follows: Internet Development (3%); Internet and Participation (40%); Internet and Communities (54%); 2% did not specify a category. Applications were received from Civil Society (57%); Government (17%); Academia (6%); Private Sector (19%); 2% of applicants did not specify type of institution.

- ISIF Asia coordinator conducted an initial screening and reviewed all applications received against the program objectives and eligibility criteria and assessing completeness and quality.

Unsuccessful applicants will receive feedback to encourage them to apply for future rounds. Feedback is shared prior to the new call for applications to be open. The system allows for selected applications to be pre-loaded to the next year’s application process, to allow applicants to incorporate feedback quicker and submit an improved proposal faster. Applications are stored in the system for data analysis.

Proposals that passed pre-screening, are then assigned to pairs of committee members. Proposals accepted by two committee members go for full review, where all committee members can comment and rank the applications based on the eligibility criteria.

The 2016 process was based on the following criteria: Innovative approach based on Internet technologies; Aligned with ISIF Asia categories/scope; Demonstrated community need/benefit; Evidence of community engagement; Evidence of positive impact; Project activities support development of local capacity; Demonstrated organizational and administrative capacity; Potential for growth/further development through a clear business plan; Viable/implementable, including situation analysis and SWOT analysis.

The scale-up grant finalists’ proposals were additionally assessed by the mentoring partner JFDI.Asia, to assess the basic details of a proposed business case. There were no objections from them about the projects selected to receive the scale-up grant. No recommendations were issued for the Selection Committee. The review of the finalists provided them much needed information to finalize the preparation of the mentoring GoGlobal program. Although rejected proposals can be reassessed at any time, no proposals were called by any committee members for additional review. The entire process was conducted online to ensure minimum overheads for meetings, fees, etc.

On the original proposal, it was planned to allocate the larger scale-up grants for former ISIF Asia recipients. However, it was decided to open the call for public participation. Although many former ISIF Asia recipients did apply, the scale-up grants were allocated to new organizations. This posed an additional challenge to get the recipients selected aligned with the mentoring program identified as they did not participate in the JFDI.Asia online pre-accelerator course offered in 2015 to all the supported projects back then (60 projects participated of the on-line course). JFDI.Asia adjusted the GoGlobal program to make sure that the two project teams supported through the intensive mentoring program were not adversely affected due to lack of knowledge of their methodology.



FIRE Africa and FRIDA selected for their Scale-up Grants a proposal called LibreRouter. The LibreRouter project submitted also a proposal from Asia (DEF Foundation) but the proposal was incomplete and did not pass the selection process. As the LibreRouter project selected by FIRE Africa and FRIDA has so much potential, the 10,000 AUD that corresponded to a counterpart in Asia were allocated to support the recipients of FIRE Africa and FRIDA with the condition that all documentation is provided in English, for the benefit of the three regions, and that efforts to identify potential partners in Asia continued. The recipients from the FIRE Africa and FRIDA networks are part of the Dynamic Coalition on Community Wireless at the IGF, several efforts to promote their work among Asian counterparts will be undertaken, hoping to identify links with existing projects in Asia like Nepal Wireless (TVWS deployment in Nepal, under testing).

6.5 Reporting

Reporting requirements cover the technical and financial aspects of the Seed Alliance at two levels: 1) from the regional programs to IDRC and Internet Society and 2) from the funding recipients to the regional programs. The regional programs continue to be administered via three separate grant agreements, one with each RIR with shared technical reporting and separate financial reporting.

In response to the recent IDRC External Evaluation, significant emphasis has been placed on developing an improved “model for better communications about projects and (ensuring) more integrated web reporting for the entire Seed Alliance”.

Data analysis and collection is an essential part of this process with particular focus on converting the technical reports from recipients into comparable, statistical analysis in recognition that project reports alone are not enough. Supporting tools such as report summaries, photos, videos, assessment cards and online reporting will be assessed and developed as appropriate during the next reporting period, as follows:

- Seed Alliance website update to add 2015 and 2016 reports.
- Update/review of score cards following FRIDA selection committee feedback.
- Videos for award winners, blog articles.

In terms of financial reporting, the RIRs are all well-established, non-profit, membership-based organizations, experienced in accountable, open financial management in an international environment. All three are committed to transparent and responsible financial practices and have the systems in place to effectively administer the finances of the regional programs, according to the legal environment in which each RIR operates. In addition to this, each regional program continues to review their existing systems and practices to ensure consistent, reliable and correct monitoring of their externally funded programs.

Each RIR has submitted, along with this Technical Report, their Year 1 Financial Report on 1 January 2017, midway through the grant period. A separate report will be submitted in November 2017, for a total of six financial reports (3 programs x 2 reports = 6 reports).

The External Evaluation suggested to simplify the reporting process by using online tools for recipients to report progress and allow for analysis, statistics and assessment to be conducted, so during the course of this grant there will be a review about how to better integrate the reporting online. There are two main reporting requirements for grant recipients:



- 1) Progress Report – focused on processes and operational issues and used by the regional programs for monitoring progress. Once reviewed and approved, the regional programs can process the second and final disbursements as per the schedule of payments in the signed agreement.
- 2) Final Report – this is an opportunity to synthesize and assess the activities conducted as part of the grant received. It focuses on the project’s management, limitations and achievements during the project lifecycle and includes a review of the findings included in the progress report.

FIRE Africa is currently using the AFRINIC Confluence platform to document all activities of the grant cycle. Progress reports for FIRE Africa recipients are due during the second and third quarter of 2017.

FRIDA has undertaken the development of a new, online reporting platform. The program is testing in December 2016 its reporting platform with the first round of progress reports. The platform has been developed to be integrated into WordPress. The reporting forms are developed in Spanish, English and Portuguese, like all platforms employed by FRIDA. There are two sets of reports: Progress Reports and Final Reports. Each one is composed of a technical/narrative report and financial report. Both types of reports collect basic statistics as agreed with the Seed Alliance. In the case of the progress report, its goal is to understand to what extent the project is advancing in achieving the proposed goals, identifying any changes and/or red flags with project’s implementation. In the case of the final report, its main goal is to evaluate the overall project performance compared to the proposed goals, deriving lessons both for the program and the grantee. The online reporting platform also contains an assessment tool where Evaluators assigned to each project complete an evaluation form about each report. The Evaluator decides if the report is approved or whether additional work is needed prior approval. Following its initial test in December, FRIDA expects to present the platform to FIRE and ISIF Asia in January 2017.

ISIF Asia is planning to incorporate the reporting platform designed by FRIDA to its regional programming, which is currently under development and testing. As the platform could not possibly be available at the time grant recipients signed their contracts (reporting requirements are part of the contract), ISIF Asia continues to use the existing technical and financial reporting templates, to collect technical documentation, objectives, outcomes, timeline as well as expense reporting according to grant agreements. Progress reports from ISIF Asia recipients are due during the first and second quarters of 2017.

6.6 Fundraising

The three regional programs actively seek potential partners and sponsors to support both their regional and global activities. Each program has the autonomy to look for additional funding for their own regional activities while sharing the prospects of potential new donors and/or sponsors to maintaining transparency. During the 2016-2017 cycle, the expectation was to identify and secure funding from one additional partner per region, actively looking for linkages with the private sector to diversity sources of funding.

On the approved proposal, it was defined that most of any additional funds raised will go towards the grants and awards pool, while a smaller percentage will support the development of regional and/or global activities directly benefiting the funding recipients (such as networking and capacity building support) as well as to cover a percentage of operational expenses for each regional program.

Levels of funding	FIRE Africa	FRIDA	ISIF Asia
Seed Alliance level -Team meetings for better coordination and planning -Integration and data analysis	Supported ISIF Asia in drafting initial proposal for supplement funding from IDRC for 2017. No additional fundraising activities for Seed Alliance support have been undertaken by AFRINIC.	Supported ISIF Asia in drafting initial proposal for supplement funding from IDRC for 2017. Additionally, when applicable, potential donors for regional program level are approached for overall support to the Alliance.	Conversations with IDRC to secure a supplement for the existing grant for a Seed Alliance event for 2017.
Regional program level -Funding pool -Capacity building -Outreach -Continuous improvement of systems, processes and procedures	Talking to different partners within the AFRINIC region to identify ways to better support projects within the North African region.	FRIDA has reached out to Google, Ford Foundation, Open Society Foundations, IADB and, together with FIRE and ISIF, recently met with SIDA. The program will continue to pursue these and other potential donors in 2017.	Proposals to strengthen support in the Pacific and Afghanistan are currently under development, for discussion with the PRIF, DFAT, ADB and other Asia-based donors and sponsors. With the creation of the APNIC Foundation, a more structured fundraising strategy is under development, lead by Duncan Macintosh. No additional funding has been confirmed so far.
Recipient level -Capacity building -Mentoring -Networking	FIRE Africa is in talks with Tony Elumelu foundation from Nigeria to partner in further capacity building for grant recipients.	FRIDA has held conversations with Google and Access Now for in-kind support on these fronts.	-AVPN Investment Showcase 2016, Hong Kong -Microsoft Access Challenge -Access Now Grants

One particular area of increased activity and opportunity for the Seed Alliance is in the sectors known as impact or social investing and/or venture philanthropy where considerable capital is available for investment on Internet technologies for development. The three pillars in which the Seed Alliance structures its intervention are aligned with these type of investment opportunities. More exploration of this area is required during the next reporting period as funds allocated from this grant under fundraising will be used to identify and follow-up on existing opportunities at the three levels described in the table above.

7. Selected projects

7.1 FIRE grants and awards

FIRE Africa allocated 9 grants of 190,000 USD in funding, to three scale-up grants funded by IDRC, six small grants of which four were funded by IDRC and two funded by Internet Society.

- Technical Innovation Scale up Grant of 30,000 USD from IDRC. The grant was allocated to University of the Western Cape – South Africa, for the LibreRouter project. The project will design and produce a high performance multi-radio wireless router targeted at Community Networks' needs specially considering cost, power consumption, respect for voice communication through VoIP and legal viability.
- Education Scale up Grant of 30,000 USD from IDRC was allocated to
 - Ubongo from Tanzania with their project Ubongo Kids Gamified Lesson and Quizzes for Dumbphones and Smartphones! Through this project, Ubongo provides gamified Ubongo Kids lessons and quizzes to

viewers via interactive SMS (for basic mobile phones and feature phones) and via an Android App. Ubongo has already created a library of over 3000 quiz questions that go along with its Ubongo Kids TV episodes and topics, and have delivered these to over 120,000 users on the Tigo Mobile network in Tanzania during a 1 year beta test. Through this project Ubongo plans to: Expand the library of quiz questions to include lessons and tutorials in Mathematics and Science for Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda for Classes 2-5 in both Kiswahili and English, build an Application Program Interface to allow other mobile learning partners, including Eneza Education and Shule Direct, to directly pull quiz questions to their platforms, and build an Android game which delivers the same quiz questions in through a series of fun games starring Ubongo's cartoon characters.

- Purple Zoom (Private) Limited from Zimbabwe with their project The NatiV Project which aims to create mobile mother-tongue learning solutions for children, including those that have reading disabilities and those that live in marginalized communities. The solutions will span mobile games and apps that are feature-rich and engaging, as well as native language text-to-speech technologies.
 - Education Grant from IDRC of 25,000 USD was awarded to Bibliotheque Le Pavillon Blanc from Cameroon for their project titled Library for blind and sight impaired people. This project will equip their library in Yaounde, Cameroon with computers with enlarged text features and train visual impairments youth in Computer maintenance, Computer graphics and Secretarial skills.
 - Community Development Grant from IDRC of 25,000 USD each was allocated to;
- Haleematus-Sa`adiyya with their project eTrash2Cash from Nigeria. The project will use ICT to register users and collect all varieties of waste (paper, plastic, glass, electronics, metal, food) from 10,000 pre-registered households and commercial hubs in Kano City and awards them instant online incentives based on the quality and quantity of their waste, redeemable by cash. eTrash2Cash turns the waste into valuable and reusable materials, like tissue paper from paper waste and lumber from plastic waste.
- AfChix from Kenya with their project titled Boosting the pipeline of Women in Technology through role modelling and information dissemination is seeking to document ten African women in Technology role models from the regions: Southern Africa, North Africa, East Africa, West Africa, Central Africa and The Indian Ocean. They shall then publish their stories on social media and Televisions. The programs target the upper primary and high school girls between the age of 9 to 18, the young women who have freshly joined careers in ICT/Computer Science at Universities and workplaces and those established and looking to grow into technical leadership positions. The information will be disseminated on portable storage devices during their career and mentorship meetings with students.
 - Governance Enhancement Grant from IDRC of 25,000 USD was allocated to Association Pour l'Encadrement Sûr des Enfants orphelins et autres enfants vulnérables de Kivumu from Rwanda with their project titled Rwanda GBV Monitor. Rwanda GBV Monitor aggregates data on gender-based violence from disparate sources in Rwanda including GBV Helpline, Isange One Stop Centers, online news, and NGO reports, among others. Data and insights on GBV available through Rwanda GBV Monitor aim at sensitising the public and media on the extent of gender based violence in Rwanda. It also provides details on the extent to which victims are able or unable to access psychosocial, medical, legal services and remedies in various state and civil society institutions. Availability of such data in the public domain empowers civic groups and media to compel such institutions to deliver and improve the timely delivery of such services to the victims.
 - Internet Society Access provision Grant of 25,000 USD each was allocated to two projects. Initially, one of the grant was to be allocated for the Cyber Security category but of all the applicants in that category, non was able to meet the minimum criteria for that grant. The grant recipients were:
- BOSCO Uganda from Uganda with their project Expanding BOSCO Uganda Internet/Intranet Network

Access to the Rural Remote Communities in Northern Uganda. This project will enable BOSCO-Uganda to provide free Internet access to the already existing free entry remote ICT youth centers. This will be achieved by installing point-to-point network infrastructure to bring connectivity to these remote places. BOSCO-Uganda will also increase its Internet bandwidth to 1.5 mbps to cater for the remote sites' Internet demand and expand rich content intranet access to the rural communities.

- Mucho Mangoes Ltd from Kenya with their project titled The 21st Century Digital Farmer. They intend to setup mobile ICT centers that will provide training to rural farming populations. The project will be located within the village or administrative location and thus participants hardly need to spend extra money on transport. Participation will be drawn from the farming community but includes women and youth. The training program will be free and will be provided after undergoing another one week training on Horticultural Crops Pre and Post Harvest Handling skills and Crop Husbandry.

FIRE Africa selected four winners from the 58 Awards applications received from 17 economies. The nominations were from Benin, Rwanda, Ivory Coast, Democratic Republic of The Congo, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, Mauritius, Ghana, The Gambia, Cameroon, Senegal, Zambia, South Sudan, and Tanzania. Technical innovation for Internet access and development category received seven applications, but none was awarded because they did not meet the requirements. That prize was transferred to the Internet and technology for social and economic development category which had 42 applications. Internet and technologies for social inclusion, strengthening democracy and the exercise of rights and freedoms received 9 applications, with one emerging the winner.

FIRE Africa allocated four awards for US\$3000 and a travel grant to the IGF 2016 of US\$4000, as follows;

1. Internet and technologies for social inclusion, strengthening democracy and the exercise of rights and freedoms; Tobetsa for WiFi TV Extension Project, South Africa
2. Internet and technology for social and economic development: African Institute for Mathematical Sciences docmeUP, Ghana
3. Internet and technology for social and economic development: The African Centurion Trust for Kids Comp Camp, Kenya
4. Internet and technology for social and economic development: GIVE1PROJECT for All Girls Tech Camp, The Gambia

7.2 FRIDA grants and awards

FRIDA allocated 6 grants for a total of 145,000 USD funded by IDRC, Internet Society and LACNIC.

- IDRC Grant: Digital Mapping. Perpendicular (Guatemala). 25,000 USD.
Thematic Category: *Internet and participation* - Internet and technologies for social inclusion, democracy strengthening and exercise of rights and freedoms.
There are more than 300 informal settlements in the metropolitan area of Guatemala. The goal of the Digital Mapping project is to design a solution that can be used to identify risk factors and vulnerable urban areas, and test this solution in one pilot settlement. The Information will be collected by the local residents and field workers with the help of drones and mobile devices. It is expected that this data will help streamline and prioritize public policies and/or actions for disaster prevention in these vulnerable urban

territories. The information will be made available through an online platform. The project seeks to become a benchmark for multisector participation in the production of urban information and diagnosis.

- IDRC Grant: BIDYA: Digital and Accessible Library. UNCU, the National Association of the Blind (Uruguay). 25,000 USD.

Thematic Category: *Internet and participation* - Internet and technologies for social inclusion, democracy strengthening and exercise of rights and freedoms.

The goal of BIDYA is to offer a tool to promote the inclusion and continuity in the formal education system of children, teenagers and young people with visual disabilities, thus guaranteeing equal opportunities. The limited availability of study material in braille, audio, electronic, or extended character format is one of the greatest difficulties visually impaired students encounter in the educational system. BIDYA proposes the creation of a system for digitizing books and required reading as established in the Uruguayan primary and secondary school curricula. These will be made available online through a repository of books and other materials in various formats. The Digital and Accessible Library will allow universal access, regardless of geographic and physical barriers or mobility limitations. BYDIA is collaborating with Tiflonexos, 2014 FRIDA Award Winner and Grantee which has also worked around technologies for inclusion for the visually impaired, and Plan Ceibal FRIDA Award Winner 2011.

- IDRC Grant: Amazon Digital Radio Network using High Frequency. Department of Planning, Urbanism and Environment at the Sao Paulo State University (Brazil). 25,000 USD.

Thematic Category: *Internet Development* - Technical Innovation for Internet Access and Development

The project aims at providing digital communication infrastructure for traditional communities of the isolated rural rain forest areas in Acre State, in the Amazon region of Brazil. This research is the continuation of the Fonias Juruá academic research project where, in 2015, five High Frequency (HF) radio stations were installed inside the Alto Juruá Reserve in communities without any communication infrastructure, sometimes taking more than one day by boat to reach the nearest phone. The project aims at expanding and improving the already existing radio network as well as testing and adapting this social technology with the feedback from the local community. Each HF station will be equipped with a digital modem, connected to the radio, which will allow digital data exchange between the communities.

- Internet Society Cybersecurity Grant: Protecting the TOR Network against Malicious Traffic. Lab of Security and Cryptography at the Campinas State University (Brazil). 25,000 USD.

Thematic Category: *Internet Development* - Technical Innovation for Internet Access and Development

TOR is an overlay network that enables anonymous communication between applications that communicate over TCP. This network serves hundreds of thousands of users, allowing them to decide when they wish to be identified, thus keeping their online data from being tracked and protecting the privacy of their activities against third-party tracking attempts. Despite being used mainly to avoid online censorship in countries under dictatorial regimes, in a way, this anonymity network supports hidden services and allows drugs dealing, pedophilia, human trafficking, protecting botnets, sending SPAM, DDoS attacks, and other cybercrimes. In this context, the project seeks to provide a solution to the growing traffic of malicious code that is being sent over this network. The goal of the proposal is to research methods and techniques for protecting the TOR network against malicious traffic, while maintaining the privacy and anonymity of harmless traffic.

- Internet Society Cybersecurity Grant: BGP Security in RENATA's Infrastructure. RENATA, the National Academic Network of Advanced Technology (Colombia). 25,000 USD.

Thematic Category: *Internet Development* - Technical Innovation for Internet Access and Development

The project involves the implementation of origin validation for BGP routes in RENATA's network backbone, which provides interconnection services to SNCTI in Colombia and the rest of the world.

Specifically, the project will focus on the major exchange points in Bogotá (which provides connectivity to the Clara Network) and in Barranquilla (which provides Internet connectivity). Initially, approximately 50% of the institutions connected to RENATA will participate. From a technical point of view, public key infrastructure for Internet resources (RPKI) will be implemented for all participating organizations, using the model for cryptographic validation (Route Origin Authorization) hosted by LACNIC. The project will cover both IPv4 and IPv6 addresses. Working towards the university of the future, RENATA is embarking on this project –the only one of its kind worldwide– in order to increase the region’s leadership in BGP security.

- LACNIC IPv6 Grant: IPv6 Deployment at UNT. National University of Tucuman (Argentina). 20,000 USD. Thematic Category: *Internet Development* - Technical Innovation for Internet Access and Development
Universidad Nacional de Tucumán (UNT) is the largest university of Northern Argentina and its community includes more than 80,000 people. Currently, IPv6 implementation at UNT is limited to the WiFi network of the Herrera Center. UNT wants to address the coexistence of IPv4 and IPv6, at first in one of the centers with the largest network infrastructure and then gradually migrate to other centers until the entire infrastructure is operating on native IPv6.

FRIDA allocated 2 awards for 5,000 USD each, along with a package to participate of the IGF 2016, both funded by IDRC. The projects selected were:

- FRIDA Award: AgriNeTT. University of the West Indies, St. Agustin Campus (Trinidad and Tobago). 5,000 USD.
Thematic Category: *Internet and communities* - Internet and technology for social and economic development.
AgriNeTT is an e-Agriculture project which infuses ICT into the agriculture sector of Trinidad & Tobago to build a knowledge intensive agriculture economy. The project provides ICT tools for the farming community and agricultural institutions to help to drive economic growth of the agriculture sector and increase its competitiveness. The project aims to increase agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale farmers, in particular women and youth and family farmers. The AgriNeTT team has developed two Open Data platforms which serve as a repository for agriculture data sets from institutions and associations. Several mobile and web-based applications have been developed for the platform: AgriExpense – a farm financial management tool, AgriPrice – provides up-to-date data on market prices, AgriMaps – a Land Suitability tool which recommends preferred crops for various parcels of land, and AgriDiagnose – a pest and disease diagnosis system.
- FRIDA Award: Mexicoleaks (Mexico). 5,000 USD.
Thematic Category: *Internet and participation* - Internet and technologies for social inclusion, democracy strengthening and exercise of rights and freedoms.
Mxicoleaks is an independent whistleblowing platform for leaking information that is of public interest in Mexico. In addition to offering a platform where whistleblowers can share information safely and anonymously, Mxicoleaks is an alliance of media outlets and NGOs working together to build a more transparent and democratic Mexico. Since its creation, the partners behind Mxicoleaks have published 27 news stories based on 13 leaks, including information regarding embezzlement in the public real estate loans system, the systematic mass destruction of pre-Hispanic ruins, and other corruption cases.

7.3 ISIF Asia grants and awards

ISIF Asia allocated 12 grants for over 450,000 AUD in funding. The grants were allocated to three research grants funded by APNIC; two scale-up grants funded by IDRC; four small grants (one funded by IDRC and three funded by APNIC) and one grant funded by Internet Society on cybersecurity.

- The APNIC Internet Operations Research Grants allocated around AUD 115,000 was awarded to support the following projects:
 1. Realistic simulation of uncoded, coded and proxied Internet satellite links with a flexible hardware-based simulator. The University of Auckland, New Zealand. The main focus of this research is to establish realistic satellite simulator of UDP flows. It also automates experiments run on non-coded and coded configurations. The project builds upon a 2014 ISIF Asia grant to improve connectivity in the Pacific islands.
 2. Rapid detection of BGP anomalies. Centre for Advanced Internet Architectures (CAIA), Swinburne University of Technology, Australia. This research focuses on producing techniques for the real-time detection of different types of BGP anomalies that can be used by an operator. The evaluation of this tool will be carried out with a controlled testbed using BGP Replay Tool (BRT) to emulate past BGP events.
 3. A Peering Strategy for the Pacific Islands. Telco2 Limited, New Zealand. This research continues and expands a set of Internet measurements of latency to Pacific Island telecommunications providers from various locations around the world, that when evaluated in conjunction with submarine cable availability, can be used to determine a metric for efficiency of transit that can be considered along with the economic impact of having an efficient transit. The measurements will be made available in real-time via a web interface to help operators, regulators, and funders understand the physical routing of network traffic, availability of content, and benefits of peering to improve availability, reachability and security of the Internet in the Asia Pacific region.
- The Internet Society Cybersecurity Grant provided 56,000 AUD in direct funding, plus additional Monitoring, Evaluation and Communications support valued at 2,500 AUD and a travel grant to participate at the Internet Governance Forum in Guadalajara, Mexico where they will be one of the speakers at the workshop “Cybersecurity – Initiatives in and by the Global South”.
 4. Developing Tonga National CERT to the Department of Information & ICT under the Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Environment, Climate Change, Information, Communication, Disaster Management (MEIDECC), Tonga. The Tonga Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) launched recently, is the first national CERT in the Pacific region. Tonga CERT was launch with a long-term goal to expand its services to the greater Pacific once fully operational. Tonga CERT will conduct incident handling; perform vulnerability handling; and provide security consultation and advice. Read more from Andrew Toimoana, Director of MEIDECC, Tonga.
- The Community Impact Scale-up Grant funded by IDRC, provided 50,000 AUD in funding, plus a three-week mentoring program in Singapore, facilitated by JFDI.Asia, valued at 25,000 AUD plus expenses

during their stay from 1 to 23 December 2016, to:

5. Equal Access to the Information Society in Myanmar, the Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation, Myanmar. This project focuses on women and youth, and benefits 500 people through 20 libraries across the country. The curriculum, developed specifically for Myanmar, focuses on critical thinking in a digital environment of smartphones and tablets. It develops the skills of young female leaders by providing them with specialized information technology training, leadership and job skills, and opportunities to engage in critical public discussion.
- The Technical Innovation Scale-up Grant funded by IDRC, provided 50,000 AUD in funding, plus a three-week mentoring program in Singapore, facilitated by JFDI.Asia, valued at 25,000 AUD plus expenses during their stay from 1 to 23 December 2016, to:
 6. Khushi Baby, India. This project improves digital medical records for mothers and children by streamlining data collection, improving decision making in the field, aiding in district resource management, and delivering effective dialect-specific voice call reminders to mothers.
 - The Technical Innovation Small Grants funded by IDRC and APNIC provided four small grants of up to 30,000 AUD to:
 7. My Community Reader: a Mobile-First Distributed Translation Tool and Reader for Ethnic Minority Languages. The Asia Foundation, Thailand. This project will build, test, and deploy a tool to translate text into minority languages books, significantly expanding the available online library of digital and printable mother-tongue children's books. It will also deliver a mobile app so people can search the library and download titles on local Android devices.
 8. UAV-Aided Resilient Communications for Post Disaster Applications: Demonstrations and Proofs of Concept. Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines. This project will design and demonstrate UAV-borne radio payloads as critical network nodes in the development of a post-disaster resilient, delay tolerant communications system, using both multi-rotor and fixed wing platforms with long range radio payload to demonstrate the concept. The UAV will act as data aggregators and wireless store-and-forward relays for collecting important information and providing connectivity to evacuation centers, ground teams and concerned agencies. Data can be gathered from multiple sources below and delivered to another ground team or to a central station, while it can use the wireless link to broadcast messages to the ground nodes. Relayed information can include survivor profiles, food supply audits, medicine requests, and images of victims. This system will be used to assist response team coordination, hasten rescue efforts, and deliver timely updates, among others.
 9. Legalese. Legalese Pte. Ltd. Singapore. This is a web application that will enable the growing Asian population of first-time entrepreneurs and first-time investors to transact seed-stage financing with confidence and without expensive legal fees. The app educates end-users about entrepreneurial finance, facilitates choosing and configuring investment agreements, manage signatures through to completion, and develops libraries of contract templates for Asian languages and Asian jurisdictions.
 10. Deployment of Collaborative Modern HoneyNet to improve Regional Cybersecurity Landscape

(CMoHN). Institute of Systems Engineering, Riphah International University, Pakistan. The project will deploy and establish the core skills required to manage and integrate different honeynets and design new honeypots for countering cyber-attacks. The project will connect with other honeynets in the region to form a regional collaborative honeynet network, and promote R&D activities to secure network infrastructure through publications and conducting community awareness seminars.

During the 2016 call for ISIF Asia Awards nominations, two award winners from The Philippines and Malaysia were selected out of the 52 nominations received across two categories, covering 11 economies in the Asia Pacific. Nominations from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore and Sri Lanka were assessed by the Selection Committee. India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were the economies that submitted more nominations, accounting for around 28% of the nominations received. The majority of the nominations received were submitted from the civil society with 34.6% followed by the private sector with 30.8%. The category that received more applications was Community Impact with 32 nominations equivalent to 61.5% while the Technical Innovation category received 20 nominations equivalent 38.5%. 15 applications were selected as Finalists and are publicly available for anyone interested to learn more about their work. ISIF Asia allocated two main awards for 3000 AUD plus a travel grant to the IGF 2016 for around 4000 AUD, as follows:

- Community Impact: Restoring Connectivity: Movable and Deployable Resource ICT Unit (MDRU). CVISNET Foundation. The Philippines
- Technical Innovation: Towards A Fairer Electoral System: 1 Person, 1 Vote, 1 Value. Tindak Malaysia

An additional award of 1000 AUD was given to Tindak Malaysia for the project with more votes, for the Community Choice Award.

7.4 Inter-regional grant

One inter-regional grant was awarded to LibreRouter, a joint proposal of the University of the Western Cape (selected for a scale-up grant by the FIRE Africa program) and Altermundi (selected for a scale-up grant by the FRIDA program). The inter-regional grant provides additional funding to both grant recipients.

The LibreRouter project will design and produce a high performance multi-radio wireless router targeted at Community Networks' needs. The LibreRouter specially considers the realities of Community Networks in the Global South in terms of facilitating easy installation and maintenance, reducing cost and power consumption, respect for voice communication through VoIP and using frequencies better suited for rural deployments.

In total, LibreRouter will receive 100,000 USD of support, plus around 54,000 USD on in-kind contributions. Below, there is a brief description about what will be done within each part of the funding received.

- **FRIDA scale-up grant (40,000 USD):** It is the main source of funding for the development of the hardware: specifications debate, prototypes, main board, and the main part of the first LibreRouter batch. The hardware is an evolution of the MP02-AWD from Village Telco, whose main developers are actively contributing to the LibreRouter. The hardware will include finalizing a transverter to allow the 2.4GHz radio in the LibreRouter to use TVWS frequencies. The last development steps of this transverter will be covered

mainly by the FRIDA funding. In addition, the FRIDA funding will be used for the software developments required for the seamless integration of the LibreMesh firmware and the ath9k driver with the hardware.

- **FIRE Africa scale-up grant** (30,000 USD): The LibreRouter funding will be mainly used to develop software solutions to provide WiFi Calling services within LibreRouter-based mesh networks and to reduce the power consumption of the Libre Router. The former will be based on making the WiFi Calling solution included in the Village Telco firmware scalable and easier to configure and manage. For the power efficiency module, some modifications of the initial hardware are required, so some funding will be used to include them in the hardware design. In addition a part of the funding will be used to complement the funding from FRIDA for the first batch of LibreRouter and the development of the drivers.
- **Inter-regional Grant** (22,000 USD): The inter-regional grant will be used for two main contributions to the LibreRouter. First, it will be used to complement the development efforts of the TVWS transverter financed by FRIDA, including prototypes and first batch of testing units, and a trip of its designer to the LibreRouter Hackathon (see inter-regional trips). Second, it will be used to develop a LibreServer: a server distribution aimed to facilitate the provision and administration of services in LibreRouter-based networks by users with little technical knowledge. It will be a lightweight distribution that can run in low-cost embedded systems (i.e. RaspberryPi). Its development should allow modularity to include other local services in the future, while at the same time, making them accessible globally (via Ipv6). Among the local services initially considered are: a local content portal, XMPP chat, VoIP and IP radio streaming.
- **Inter-regional Exchanges** (8,000 USD): During the Southern hemisphere summer a month-long hackathon will bring together developers from both teams, as well as other international community networks experts, to Quintana, Argentina, to make sure all hardware and software components are ready for production. The Seed Alliance Interregional Exchanges will cover these travel expenses. Altermundi will make a contribute by covering accommodation and food for the hackathon's participants.

The project builds on the work from previous grants and also counts with the following in-kind contributions:

- AlterMundi will host the developers participating in the LibreRouter Hackathon. Additionally, it will develop and host the website of the project and contribute with its ongoing efforts to develop the LibreMesh firmware. AlterMundi is in negotiations with Internet Society to fund the LibreStack project. The goal of this project is to complete and update several software tools and documentation material developed by AlterMundi to allow people without previous knowledge on networking to deploy and maintain their own infrastructure. These tools include: LibreMap, Librenet6, the firmware Chef, LiMe-Build and LiMe-field-tools. The documentation material includes guides and tutorials both written and in video format.
- UWC is involved from June 2016 in a grant from Internet Society Beyond the Net that makes use of the MP02-AWD from Village Telco in a real deployment. Lessons learned on this deployment will inform the specification design of the LibreRouter. Additionally, UWC has been awarded a grant from the Technology Innovation Agency of South Africa (TIA) to create a prototype of a modular, easy to install, robust, long-lasting and low-cost solar power infrastructure to power the LibreRouter and other low-power DC appliances like L.E.D. lights and mobile phone chargers. Additionally, UWC is managing the LibreRouter with its own resources.

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of South Africa funded the initial development of the TVWS transverter that will be taken to a serial production stage for the LibreRouter project. Additionally, it will contribute to develop the software components for channel scanning and selection.
- Freifunk is working on the development of a the Maximum Power Point Tracker solar charge regulator that will reduce considerably the cost of the solar solution funded by TIA. Additionally, it could be used to compliment the power efficiency strategies developed within the FIRE Africa subproject, since it allows to turn off components of the LibreRouter that are not in use.
- The University of Cape Town Net4D team currently has one PhD student working on cloudlets technologies targeting under-resources settings such as townships and rural areas called Inethi which will be supported by wireless routers and a cluster of low-power devices and will host services such as community chat, file sharing and a Decentralized Social Network (DSN). Integration between the iNethi cloudlet services and the LibreServer will be explored.

8. Interregional exchanges

In order to support collaboration among recipients from the three regions where there is a potential for scale-up, the Seed Alliance offered modest support to conduct exchanges between regions. Current and former recipients are eligible to apply for exchanges, according to the following criteria:

- Applicants are working on a project proposal together to apply for the Seed Alliance inter-regional grant;
- Applicants are working on a scale-up proposal to expand their reach to other regions and have identified collaboration opportunities among recipients from the other regional programs;
- Applicants are working together with recipients from the other regions on policy development to achieve global impact on Internet development.

Requests were assessed on a case by case basis, depending on the criteria defined by each regional program, but following the main guidelines below and to be approved by the Seed Alliance as a whole:

- Joint application from two to three current and/or former funding recipients from at least two regions;
- Application must be aligned with the categories and eligibility criteria of the regional programs involved;
- Application must address very clearly the outcome to be achieved;
- Airfare and basic living expenses budget;
- Support letter from the hosting organization to support all logistics;
- Agreement of follow-up for outcomes to be produced on a specific timeline.

Separate funding to support inter-regional exchanges among funding recipients has been set aside to encourage collaboration and knowledge transfer. During this reporting period, 8,000 USD have been committed to support the exchanges between Argentina and South Africa for the LibreRouter project, beneficiary of the inter-regional grant. Project teams will meet in Quintana, Argentina in February 2017, and work for one month to make sure all hardware and software components are ready for production.

An additional work meeting is to be organized in 2017 aimed at reviewing the sustainability model for LibreRouter.



The AlterMundi and UWI team will be paired up with private sector and community network mentors for a work session aimed at fleshing out matters related to pricing, distribution, commercialization of the LibreRouter by third parties, and articulations with Community Networks for sustainability.

The remaining funds belong to the ISIF Asia portion of inter-regional exchanges. Exchanges for 2017 will be defined earlier next year.

9. Capacity building efforts

During the 2016-2017 cycle, the Seed Alliance continued to build based on the experiences acquired during the implementation for the 2012-2015 Sida grant of the Capacity Building Fund. During this cycle, the idea was to focalize the support and provide opportunities that are more directly linked to their project/organization needs and add value.

According to the approved proposal, access to capacity building funds will be open to current and former recipients throughout the period of this grant, focusing on identifying and nurture 10 leaders per region to receive additional mentoring and capacity building support. Each regional program will decide the specific mechanisms for the allocation of this support, under one or more any of the following areas: 1) Business skills and fundraising; 2) Technical; 3) Evaluation and communication. Funds can be used to travel to training events, enroll online courses, take internships at industry partners, to name a few. Requests will be assessed on a case by case basis, depending on the criteria defined by each regional program.

FIRE Africa hosted a workshop on Leadership Skills, project management, and business pitching in Mauritius on the 28 to 29 of November 2016. Nine project leaders from the 2016 grantees were identified to receive the training. The goal of the workshop was to provide the grant recipients with skills required to seek funding from potential donors and scale up their operations. The two-day workshop covered a range of topics relevant to innovators and entrepreneurs. It helped the Grantees network with each other, and also network with Internet leaders and entrepreneurs within the African continent. Didas Mzirai, project manager for Mucho mangoes limited with his project the 21st Century digital Farmer, and Tonny Okwonga from BOSCO Uganda attended the 2016 IGF in Mexico using the Internet Society Travel grant. The three scale-up grant winners will also undergo mentorship on securing funding, and strategic business positioning to help them scale their operations.

In this period, FRIDA awardees and grantees have benefitted from the following capacity building opportunities:

- Tailored Mentoring from Ashoka Argentina. Scale-up grantees, Hablando con Julis and AlterMundi, are receiving tailored mentoring from Ashoka Argentina. Ashoka is a global organization that identifies and invests in leading social entrepreneurs -- individuals with innovative and practical ideas for solving social problems. The Ashoka staff has completed kick-off meetings with leaders from each project and conducted a diagnostic exercise to identify specific weaknesses, strengths, opportunities and threats for each project with the goal of better understanding areas in which they may need support. Now, projects are being matched with mentors to help them strengthen the areas in need of further work. In the case of Hablando con Julis, the project has been assigned mentors from Accenture with whom the project has worked in improving its business model. In the case of AlterMundi, Ashoka is in the process of selecting mentors

specialized in cooperatives and community initiatives to flesh out most suitable strategies to continue to roll out their scale up upon the completion of the FRIDA and Interregional Grant. Through the interregional grant, an additional mentoring session will be organized to work specifically on the business model of the LibreRouter. These activities have benefitted project leaders Daniela Galindo from Hablando con Julis, and Nicolás Echaniz from AlterMundi.

- IGF 2016. FRIDA Award Winners 2016, AgriNeTT and Mexicoleaks, as well as Internet Society Grantees, Renata and UNICAMP, received travel grants to participate in the IGF 2016 and a range of capacity building and networking activities. Common activities for all four FRIDA beneficiaries included the organization of a social event funded by the Programs and Internet Society in which they interacted with other Seed Alliance beneficiaries, donors and representatives from civil society, universities, governments and private sector; and their participation in the Seed Alliance booth where they were able to meet IGF participants and introduce their projects. The Award Winners participated in the Awards Ceremony, and of the Seed Alliance-organized workshop “Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Global South” where they had an additional chance to speak about their projects. On the other hand, Internet Society Grantees conducted short presentations in the Seed Alliance-organized workshop “Cybersecurity Initiatives in and by the Global South.” Project leaders that benefitted from these activities included: Margaret Bernard (AgriNeTT); Eduardo Martín Borregón (Mexicoleaks); Erika Vega (Renata); and Marcelo Palma (UNESP).
- Closer mentoring through new evaluation process. FRIDA has adopted new mentoring and evaluation process through which evaluators and grantees are encouraged to communicate more closely with project leaders throughout the execution of their projects. Projects are matched with current and former members of the selection committee based on project focus and evaluators’ areas of expertise. Kick-off and closing meetings are part of the monitoring and evaluation process, on top of the regular reporting activities. Grantees are encouraged to contact the program coordinator and their assigned evaluator throughout the project when in need for help. Thus far, the new accompanying process is proving to generate direct benefits for projects. Two examples include:
 - BIDYA: Digital and Accessible Library - UNCU, the National Association of the Blind (Uruguay). The project was matched with evaluator Ida Holz, also Uruguayan and supporter of the Ceibal Program which has provided computer access to children and families through the education system in Uruguay (FRIDA Award Winner 2011). Ida Holz has intervened on behalf of UNCU to assist them in articulating the BIDYA Library Project with the Ceibal Program, so that the digital materials produced through BIDYA, can be accessed through the Ceibal computers. This action would increase significantly the impact of the program. Negotiations are currently underway.
 - Digital Mapping - Perpendicular (Guatemala). The project was matched with Selection Committee Member Juan Manuel Casanueva. Two meetings in addition to the Kick-off meeting have been held to date in which Casanueva has reviewed the result of technical consultations through which the Perpendicular team will determine the functionalities of their mapping platform. This close collaboration has enabled the team to sharpen their product and work on a Minimum Viable Product more narrowly focused on delivering results within the 12-month grant cycle which can later on be expanded and scaled.

ISIF Asia recipients have benefited from capacity building opportunities funded by IDRC and Internet Society grants, as well as support gained thanks to ISIF Asia secretariat facilitation. Two females and two males received support from the IDRC grant, while one male received support from the Internet Society grant, as follows:

- AVPN 2016 Conference and Investment Showcase. Hong Kong. AVPN members are invited to support their investees to attend the Investment Showcase. An investment platform called DealShare supports the live-pitch schedule in groups by main themes. Shamila Keyani (UM Health Trust, Pakistan) and Makkiya Jawed (DoctHers, Pakistan) pitched their projects on the health session. They received support from AVPN staff to practice and prepare for their pitch. The conference program goes for two days, with workshops and plenary sessions to understand different ways how social enterprises can benefit not only from grants or donations, but from other business models.
- JFDI.Asia GoGlobal mentoring program for scale-up grants. Singapore. An intensive 3 weeks program, facilitated by JFDI.Asia offered 9 intensive mentoring sessions with investors. Additionally, the project leaders receive support to review and improve their business models, their communication strategies and their growth strategy. Two project leaders, Htet Aung (Book Aid and Preservation Foundation, Myanmar) and Mohammed Shahnawaz (Khushy Baby, India) participated in the mentoring program.
- IGF 2016. Andrew Tomoina (Tonga CERT, Tonga) recipient of the Internet Society Cybersecurity Grant received travel support from the Internet Society grant to attend the IGF.

In addition, other opportunities funded by other sources were facilitated by the ISIF Asia secretariat, although not through the program's funding sources, but through reference letters, endorsements, and requests for support to attend APNIC 42, as selected APNIC42 Professional Fellows: Mary Rose Ofianga Rontal (The Philippines), Maureen Hilyard (Cook Islands) and Vashkar Bhattacharjee (Bangladesh).

10. Event Management

AFRINIC, APNIC and LACNIC have professional and experienced event planning and coordination staff able to organize meetings, conferences, or other events that are required by the partners. They also have the experience and equipment to offer virtual meeting services to provide greater access to their own events, remote participation and online training.

During this reporting period, FIRE Africa, FRIDA and ISIF Asia continued to organize face-to-face and/or participation from funding recipients at events, according to their organizational practices and policies. Specific events organized were:

- **Seed Alliance Executive Council Meeting:** APNIC convened and provided secretariat support for the first council meeting. The meeting was chaired by LACNIC. Details about the agenda were described previously in this document.
- **Seed Alliance Joint Awards Ceremony:** Part of the awards package, the award winners (eight organizations) from all three regional programs were invited to participate. The ceremony was organized around the 11th Internet Governance Forum in Guadalajara, Mexico. This event has relevance for all three regional programs, is aligned with all categories funded, and offer a variety of stakeholders to guarantee that all award winners can benefit from their participation to: 1) showcase their work and if possible participate in sessions as panelists or speakers; 2) Access to new funding and capacity building support available; 3) Exposure to new communities of potential supporters and investors. Logistics for the event were shared among the regional coordinators.
- **Seed Alliance workshops:** Two workshops were organized for the IGF directly linked and funded through

the IDRC grant, workshop 26 on cybersecurity (organized by LACNIC) and workshop 212 on entrepreneurship (organized by AFRINIC). In addition, APNIC organized workshop #82 innovation and SDGs, as a follow-up of its participation at the WSIS forum in Geneva earlier in 2016, were the Seed Alliance regional programs were main contributors to the event.

- **Mentoring/networking sessions** to support capacity building efforts. FIRE Africa. FRIDA is actively involved in the Ashoka mentoring process for scale-up grantees, and at the IGF, introduced FRIDA Awardees and Grantees to potential partners and donors. ISIF Asia organized the logistics for AVPN 2016 Investment Showcase participation as well as JFDI.Asia GoGlobal mentoring program in Singapore as described above.
- **Inter-regional exchanges:** APNIC coordinates with exchanges recipients the coverage of expenses associated with the exchanges, while the logistics were in charge of each recipient.

11. Gender and environmental protection considerations

The Seed Alliance and all its regional members are firmly committed to the promotion of gender equity and participation as well as respect for the environment and its protection based on the principles of sustainability. While every year there are a small number of proposals that focus on or mention gender or the environment specifically, all funding recipients - as part their Grant Agreement - are also asked to consider how to plan and implement their activities in a manner that promotes gender equity, sustainable development and the protection of the environment. None of these requirements are obligatory, however, there will be opportunities during the selection process and early implementation stages of every supported project to influence the incorporation of gender and environmental considerations before final contracts are signed. These requirements are assessed on a case-by-case basis. For example, the Secretariat of a Regional Program could request a shortlisted candidate to include a specific group of women as beneficiaries or to conduct an environmental assessment.

FIRE Africa hopes to not only encourage submissions for projects that work directly or benefit directly both women and girls but also encourage women led projects to submit. In addition, FIRE Africa hopes to offer grants and awards to applicants from post-conflict countries (Angola, DRC, Liberia, Sierra Leone). Only two award applications were received from DRC, but none was considered in the final round of review by the jurors. There was no award application from Angola, Liberia, or Sierra Leone. There were grant applications from all these post conflict areas, but also none was considered good enough to receive funding. Of the four award winners, two had a strong gender component. The All Girls tech camp seeks to empower girls from rural Gambia to learn and embrace ICTs. The DocmeUp seeks to provide Prenatal care and remote ultrasound imaging for rural women in Ghana.

Women in ICT is a cornerstone theme within FRIDA and the program has considered gender as a priority during the selection process, being one of two the cross-cutting criteria applied during selection procedures. Gender is also a priority for LACNIC as a whole. The organization holds a Women in ICTs gathering twice a year in its regional events to promote dialogue and networking opportunities, where ICT female professionals share their experiences and discuss the challenges they faced in a male dominated environment. In 2017, LACNIC plans to launch a Gender Program to be lead by the Development and Cooperation Department aimed at encouraging female participation across all LACNIC's community outreach activities (events, capacity building, policy forum and development projects). FRIDA, in particular, is a key program through which LACNIC strives to promote greater female participation. In 2016, FRIDA has encouraged applications from female participants and it is working in closely with selected female leaders. In 2017, FRIDA will adopt a stronger gender component to encourage greater involvement of women and girls in ICT,



particularly through capacity building and female empowerment initiatives.

ISIF Asia highlighted women and girls in IT one of the focus areas of the Community Impact category supporting projects that encourage women and girls to actively participate in the technical development of the Internet. The scale-up grant allocated to the project “Equal Access to the Information Society in Myanmar” of the Myanmar Book Aid and Preservation Foundation in Myanmar, focuses on women and youth, and benefits 500 people through 20 libraries across the country. The curriculum, developed specifically for Myanmar, focuses on critical thinking in a digital environment of smartphones and tablets. It develops the skills of young female leaders by providing them with specialized information technology training, leadership and job skills, and opportunities to engage in critical public discussion. That is aligned with recent efforts from APNIC to support Women in IT gatherings during APNIC conferences and support young women engineers to apply for the APNIC fellowships. Also in the Technical innovation category, ISIF Asia will introduce as one of the focus areas the work around power supply, supporting projects that encourage research and adoption of non-fossil powered systems, such as solar, eolic or hydraulic systems as well projects using wireless sensors for environmental monitoring, to name a few. In addition to that, 50% of the mentoring and networking opportunities provided were given to women representatives of the supported projects, so that leadership opportunities are provided equality (2 women to AVPN and 2 men to JFDI.Asia).

For 2017, and thanks to a supplement offered by IDRC, an event to highlight the projects and leaders supported by the Seed Alliance, that have a strong and clear gender component is currently under planning. The event will allow to showcase the contributions from Seed Alliance recipients to a Internet build by women, for women. Project leaders from all three regions will be selected to participate.

12. Risk analysis

The approved proposal focused the assessment of risks at the level of the Seed Alliance program and not at the supported funding recipients level; the latter are dealt with on a case-by-case basis, and several risk mitigation efforts are implemented. Below, the analysis after a year implementation:

At the Seed Alliance level, a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between AFRINIC, APNIC and LACNIC was signed shortly after all the terms and conditions of this grant were finalized. The agreement provided a wide framework for collaboration and is not only focused on the IDRC proposal implementation, as the RIRs have agreed to continue supporting the Seed Alliance collaboration, independently of IDRC support. will be based on the approved grant proposal. All three regional programs are committed to comply with IDRC requirements according to their national regulatory frameworks and organizational capacity. The MoU will also be reviewed in the event that additional partners join the Seed Alliance to provide details about any additional operational or reporting requirements, including audits.

AFRINIC, APNIC and LACNIC are all well-established, non-profit, membership-based organizations, experienced in accountable, open financial management in an international environment. All three are committed to transparent and responsible financial practices and have the systems in place to effectively administer the finances of the regional programs, according to the legal environment in which each registry operates. In addition to this, each regional program continues to review their existing systems and practices to ensure consistent, reliable and correct monitoring of their externally funded programs.

At the funding recipient's level, the following safe-guards were planned to be on place:

- As part of the selection process, successful applicants were required to provide evidence of their proven capacity to administer funds so that the regional program secretariats can conduct a documentation review before actual grant agreements are signed. This includes double signatures for financial and technical reporting, CVs of their financial officers, previous audits and control systems so the regional programs can conduct informed risk assessments.
- Once the funding recipients have signed a Grant Agreement with their correspondent regional program, a schedule of payments based on milestones and project outcomes will be defined by the Secretariat of each regional program. The amounts for the disbursements were defined based on project needs following the guidelines below: 1) Advance payment from 50% to 70% of the total grant amount at the beginning of the project cycle depending on up-front purchasing required for the project to start; 2) Mid-term payment of 40% to 20% pending submission and approval of technical and financial report; 3) Final payment of 10% pending presentation and approval of final technical and financial reports, that accounts for grant spending.
- Regional programs secretariat have the autonomy to: 1) withdraw grant offer if supporting documentation does not provide necessary assurances that the organization has the capacity to manage the funds; 2) approved project time and funding extensions (in line with the 24 months' timeframe for this grant and committed budget from all sources); 3) cancel grants if reporting requirements are not completed, so no further payments are processed if any irregularities are identified; 4) request funding recipient to return unused funds.
- As for travel grants for events, inter-regional exchanges, etc. letters outlining specific terms and conditions in which the support is provided will be issued. No contract will be required. Travel will be provided based on the travel policies of AFRINIC, APNIC and LACNIC for third-party support (non-staff).
- In the case of FRIDA, one project is yet to sign its contract, though project activities were initiated and are underway according to schedule: The State University of Campinas (Brazil), Internet Society Grantee. Delays are connected to bureaucratic procedures set in place by the university which establish a 3-month process for signing contracts. After a student protest, documentation was lost which further delayed the process. Signing is expected to conclude in December 2016. Additionally, two initial payments were delayed (as reflected in the financial report). On the one hand, the State University of Sao Paulo (Brazil) also underwent a 3-month process for contract signing; once the contract was signed, the university provided erroneous bank account details which resulted in the transfer from FRIDA bouncing back. The final transfer was completed in November, therefore excluded from the current financial report. On the other hand, Altermundi asked the program to withhold its first payment to avoid currency depreciation until the organization had to submit its first payment to the factory producing of the router prototypes. The payment officially went out in December 2016, therefore it is also excluded from the present financial report.

There are risks associated with the capacity of the Selection Committees to evaluate projects given how wide ranging the topics are. To mitigate these risks, the selection processes have been adapted in a way that allows the regional programs to seek external advice to ensure continued quality via mentors, consultants or panels of experts.

The financial support to recipients will not create a distortion on how the market operates, as funds are limited and committed to very concrete work to take place. The recognition provided by the program has certainly increased the visibility of the work conducted, but due to its size and scope it is not anticipated to create any imbalances. The Seed Alliance considers that funds invested in capacity building and networking provide an advantage to the organizations supported, but that again, based on their size and limited scope will not create any imbalances.

At the Seed Alliance program level, there are latent risks that the regional programs continued to experience but are



committed to overcome. Language and regional distribution make collaboration at the global level particularly challenging and the proposal to establish an Executive Council looks to address that potential risk.

The Seed Alliance global south branding has not impacted in any way the recognition of the regional programs as all marketing efforts always include and refer to the regional programs.

13. Dissemination of project results

AFRINIC, APNIC and LACNIC have the capacity to design, produce and maintain their organizational websites as well as those of the regional programs, produce printed and electronic brochures, publications, presentations, and multimedia projects. Specific organizational arrangements will be in place to guarantee support to FIRE Africa, FRIDA and ISIF Asia to produce materials aimed promoting and disseminating the regional program and Seed Alliance outcomes.

The Seed Alliance members have agreed that the ownership of the project results will remain with the organization that develops the project and the project team. However, technical reports and other mechanisms of dissemination will be published in the public domain, free for use and modifications under a Creative Commons License Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Un-ported²³. Further details are included in the contract, which the recipients signed with the corresponding regional program.

Dissemination efforts mechanism at the Seed Alliance level at the end of this new grant include:

- Updated Seed Alliance website with information about what the alliance is and links to the regional programs with links to technical reports, videos, photos, etc. The update of the website is on-going, and once progress reports are submitted a 2016 map of grant recipients will be available.
- Scorecards of supported projects with basic information and assessments that link to all project summary descriptions and full technical reports: During the final submission of the Sida report in 2015, the FRIDA selection committee provided detailed feedback about this tool and it is currently under review to be able to address their concerns.
- Videos presented at the joint Seed Alliance Awards ceremonies for download: Available online.
- Index of capacity building support opportunities provided: On-going.
- Data analysis at Seed Alliance level including conclusions: On-going.

The regional programs do not have an explicit policy about a preference to support projects using Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) as it has been possible to disseminate project results developed using proprietary platforms (such as the GuideView project in India, supported by ISIF Asia in 2010). The emphasis that the regional programs do have is about making the most use of the Technical Reports and knowledge gained during the grant implementation, so technical documentation must be released using the Creative Commons License as described above.

²³ Terms of License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>



As one of the selection criteria for prospective applicants is to have a sustainability strategy in place and that private sector organizations are also allowed to submit proposals for research and development, there is the possibility that the recipients will base their strategy on the commercialization of the project results, the learning acquired by offering consultancy services, etc. They will be able to use project results for commercial uses, as long as they are documented in the public domain using the CC license described above.

On a similar token, as universities are eligible to apply, there is a possibility that there is the possibility that the recipients require that project results are not published until accepted in journal publications, or that project results are bound by the university intellectual property rights policies. However, universities will play by the same rules and will have to authorize release of Technical Reports and supporting documentation in the public domain using the CC license as described above.

FIRE Africa, FRIDA and ISIF Asia will encourage funding recipients to share information that documents their activities in a variety of formats. It is important that the recipients share knowledge with the community, and be accountable for the support they are receiving. This will provide more visibility to each one of the projects; provide the opportunities to learn from each other; find common ground; and establish alliances. The mechanisms will be very simple, and will be incorporated into the development of each project, so they will not be a burden for the recipients.

Profiles of award nominations received are published as part of the online voting platform. Content will be disseminated through each regional program or registry social media accounts and websites. Mailing lists by each regional program and also as part of the Seed Alliance will continue to be used to distribute general announcements and formal communications of the programs.

After being approved by the correspondent regional mechanisms in place, the technical reports produced by each recipient will be published on the correspondent regional web site. Projects are expected to produce at least two reports, one progress report and one final report, using the templates for both technical and financial reports provided by the regional secretariat.

14. Seed alliance project cycle activities

Activity description	Months 1-4	Months 5-8	Months 9-12	Months 13-16	Months 17-20	Months 21-24	Responsible
Establishment of MoU among AFRINIC, APNIC and LACNIC for the operation of the Seed Alliance	X X X 0						Senior management AFRINIC, APNIC & LACNIC
Definition of indicators for evaluation framework 2015-2017	X X X 0						Senior management AFRINIC, APNIC and LACNIC with input from IDRC
Update websites for 2016 call for grants	0 0 X X	X 0 0 0					FIRE Africa, FRIDA & ISIF Asia teams
Application and selection process for 2016 grants	0 0 X X	X X X X					FIRE Africa, FRIDA & ISIF Asia teams and selection committees
2016 grants implementation period			X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	Funding recipients
Review and assessment of 2016 grants progress reports				X X X X			FIRE Africa, FRIDA & ISIF Asia teams
Review and assessment of 2016 grants final reports						X X X X	FIRE Africa, FRIDA & ISIF Asia teams
Application and selection process for 2016 awards		0 X X X	X X X X				FIRE Africa, FRIDA & ISIF Asia teams
Awards ceremony preparation (video presentation, printed publication, logistics, venue/event TBC)				X X X X	X X 0 0		FIRE Africa, FRIDA & ISIF Asia teams
Capacity building (training, mentoring, coaching)			X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	FIRE Africa, FRIDA & ISIF Asia teams
Networking for funding recipients			X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	FIRE Africa, FRIDA & ISIF Asia teams
Fundraising	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	X X X X	
Final report						X X X X	FIRE Africa, FRIDA & ISIF Asia teams