

**Relevance of Market Information to farmer  
Entrepreneurs Symposium**

**Fit Uganda, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2010**



**Promotion of Rural  
Communication by use of the  
Rural Communications  
Development Fund (RCDF) of UCC**

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# Agenda

1. RCDF function
2. RCDF Results
3. RCDF Projects
4. Impact of RCDF projects
5. Challenges and Opportunities
6. Planned activities

## Uganda's USF – RCDF

- RCDF replaces Universal Service Obligations
- Established in 2003
- Administered by UCC (Regulator)
- RCDF current Policy period 2003 – 2007
- RCDF Policy Main Objectives:
  - to provide access to basic communications services within a reasonable distance to all the people in Uganda.
  - to leverage investment into rural communications development.
  - to promote ICT usage in Uganda.

## The RCDF Results as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2010

#	PROGRAMME AREA	COMPLETED	UNDER DEV'T
1	Internet Points of Presence	78	0
2	Internet Cafes	100	0
3	ICT Training centres	68	44
4	Web Portals	78	0
5	Public Pay Phones	3,349	750
6	Research Projects	4	2
7	Postal support Projects	35	0
8	MCTs	11	0
9	Schools ICT projects	206	300
10	Health ICT projects	43	103
11	Call centres	0	1
<b>12</b>	<b>GSM Network towers/sites</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>0</b>

## ICT Training centres and Internet cafes

- Separate @RCDF but present as combined on the ground
- Offer standard services(common packages training, internet/min,)
- Total number = 229
- In all viable small towns of Uganda
- Multiplier factor = 5 in 3 years
- Power + Internet reliability a critical factor
- Business acumen of implementers also a CSF

*Pastoral Media ICT and Internet Café in Amuria district*



# Internet PoPs

- At all district towns except Kampala and Mukono (78)
- 400/100kbps
- CDMA/WiMax overlays on GSM networks
- Small number of optimal users
- QoS often not satisfactory

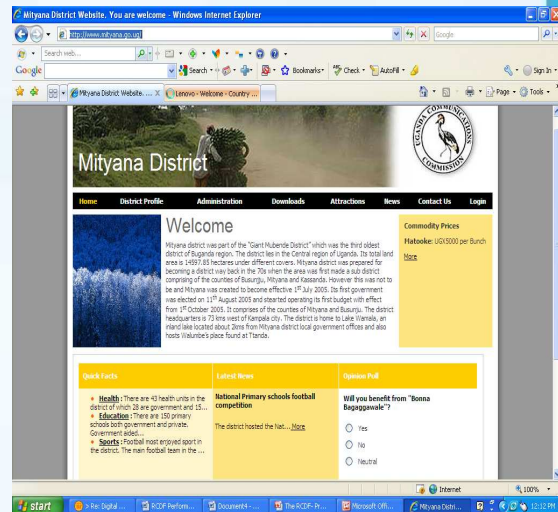
*MTN mast at Tororo town, Tororo district*



# District web portals

- For all districts except Kampala and Masaka
- Includes a national web portal
- Format = districtname.go.ug
- Handed over to districts
- Some districts not fully appreciating the value of the portals
- Perceived too technical for some districts
- Include a translated version
- Districts like Lira & Rukungiri have even redesigned theirs

## *The Mityana district web portal home page*



# Public Pay Phones

- Two main types
- 1- Standard type (Call only)
  - Solar powered/grid powered
  - Card/Coin based
- 2- CICs ( Call and Receive)
  - Included n/w expansion to 154 underserved sub counties, with 60 sites
  - Solar powered/grid powered
  - Card/Coin based
  - Call termination support facilities(Bicycle, notice board, etc)
  - Battery charging services
  - Etc included



***A Standard public pay phone at Oyarotonge, Pader district***

***A CIC in Kisozi, Kamwenge district***



# Research

- Demand driven
- Provides guidance for rural ICT implementation
- Results available to all

## Research done so far

- A Profile of Uganda's Internet and ICT Usage
- Rural Socio Economic Networks and Mobile Cellular Telephones
- Electronic Library Study
- Baseline Survey on Postal Services in Uganda
- Study on the Socio-Impact of the ICT in Uganda/of RCDF Projects

# MCT

## *Alliance High School MCT in Soroti district*

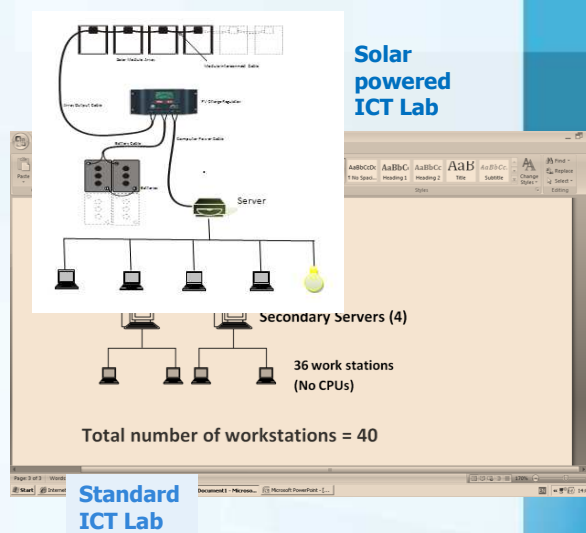
- Modified from the standard format (Nakaseke type)
- Not a popular model
- Has sustainability issues
- Suited for the very remote places (Bottom up roll out)



# School ICT Laboratories

- Scope= Govt S.S. = 1,000, Pvt = 4,000; Pri sch = 12,000
  - Baseline = 1% covered
- RCDF;**
- 206 ICT lab covered
  - Govt Sec sch a priority
  - Two models used
    - 1Solar powered (10 computers)
    - Standard grid powered (40 w/stations)
  - High risk of burglary
  - Schools have fully embraced
  - Still a politically sensitive project

## ICT Lab architectural designs



## Sample School ICT Laboratories

*Bubulo Girls ICT lab in Manafwa district*



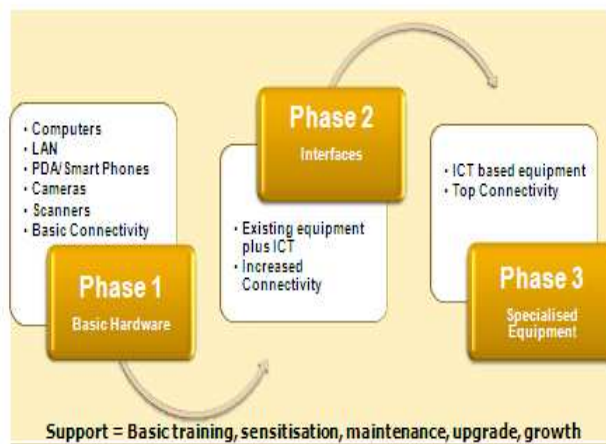
*Pilkington College, Kamuli district*



# Health Facilities ICT projects

- E-health = HMIS + Telemedicine
- (HMIS = MoH + DMO)
- (Telemedicine = Hospitals+ referrals)
- Solar powered
- Three phased approach
- Isingiro district pilot for full scale Telemedicine
- Main constraint = broad band and medical staff

## Programme Scoping



## Content Development - Emerging

A focus for RCDF Policy II

Process envisaged

*Areas of focus:*

- Agriculture
- Education
- Health

- Digitization of all available content
- Making the content interactive
- Translation
- Uploading on a web portal

# Impact

- Wider national impact under assessment
- But internally observed impact is;
  - 52 ICT business entrepreneurs created + over 3,000 employees
  - Over 300 public institutions ICT enabled
  - Average of 3 – 6 other facilities set up following onto the RCDF supported one
  - Several job opportunities created e.g. a café directly employs about 4 persons
  - Ratio of women to men users is about 6:4
  - Research results that guide further ICT investment generated
  - Rural Investment leverage ratio of about 1:2 (RCDF to the implementer)
  - GSM network expansion (60 sites) to 154 sub counties + increased rural phone access
  - Data network (Internet) expansion to all rural towns of Uganda
  - Supported schools teach Computer Studies as a curriculum subject at O-level
  - A new look for 20 District Post Offices, revamped, remodeled and postal network expansion to 15 sub counties

## Challenges

- Low level of project sustainability
- Unreliability or lack of grid power supply
- Low ICT usage
- High opex/capex
- Low ICT value appreciation in some districts
- Lack of full ownership by some districts
- A high staff turnover at the districts
- Lack of a good succession plan for ICT staff in some districts

## Opportunities (to farmers)

- ICT made Accessible, Available and Affordable
  - Wireless internet access in all major towns of Uganda
  - Voice network in a walking distance in all parts of Uganda
  - Internet cafes in all major towns of Uganda
  - ICT labs in government secondary schools of Uganda
- Generic ICT benefits
- E-governance support

## **Planned Activities – Draft RCDP II (2010 – 2014)**

- a) Increased scope of RCDP I activities
- b) Content development
- c) Connectivity

# Thank you

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