

# **The WSIS Volunteer Family - Nigeria**

## **Report of Activities**

### **Submitted To**

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## **Background**

### **Facts about Nigeria**



**Population:** 133,881,703

**Capital:** Abuja, 339,000

**Languages:** English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo, and more than 200 others

**Religions:** Islam 50%, Christian 40%, and Indigenous 10%

**Ethnicity:** 250 Major Ethnic groups with the major ones being: Hausa, Yoruba and Ibo,

**Currency:** Naira

### **Volunteerism & ICTs in Africa**



*A Rural Youth Working on a Computer*

The WSIS Volunteer family in Nigeria's activities dates back to the extended process of involvement by the Volunteer Family at the Bamako Regional Conference in May 2002, which has led us, as a Volunteer Family, to work with other volunteer families in other countries of the world involved in the WSIS process to create a Volunteering Action Plan identifying a range of priorities to be implemented between now and Tunis 2005.

With the current growth in the use of Information Communication Technologies (ICTS) in the world today, Nigeria's use of ICTs in urban areas is rapidly on the increase, with the introduction of the GSM in 2001, the country now has over 10 Million of its population making use of mobile phones. The use Internet - another ICT tool is now available in most urban cities of Nigeria, which were not about 6 six years ago. New local and community radio are being licensed with satellite TV's now available

Having highlighted these major changes in the introduction and use of ICTs in Nigeria, the digital divide is still wide in Nigeria, where though relatively affordable but at a very early stage with little awareness compared to other countries of the world. Accessibility to ICT tools has widened the gap between the urban and the rural Nigeria. In Nigeria today, volunteers are playing an important role in bridging the divide between those who do have access to information and those who do not.

Rising from our meeting at the WSIS African regional Prepcom in Accra Ghana on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 2005 where we had a meeting of the WSIS Volunteer Family deciding issues as it regards Volunteering and ICTs and working inline with the volunteer families action plan of volunteering and ICTs we here in Nigeria successfully carried out the following activities:

## **ICT4D Kiddies Club**



now use this

*ICT4D Kiddies Club Members  
doing a playlet during the  
Children and UN workshop*

as an additional plus for students who attend their school. The project, which was meant to be piloted in government public schools, could not be done due to the bureaucratic processes involved with most of the school principals asking us to bring letters of approval from the state ministry of education.

The project was piloted in a private primary school (Mopelola Nursery and Primary school) in Muslim Odinjo area of Oyo-state. Before the advent of the club the school has not been teaching ICT effectively. Having discussed the initiative with the Proprietress of the School Mrs. A.I Jegede who graciously approved the project for her school we sent in a volunteer Computer science teacher to the school in person of Mr. Akintunde Emmanuel Fawole who is coordinating the programme at the school.

The launch of the club which took place at the school premises also saw the members of the club 50 in number and in their 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year at the primary education level with an age range of between 8 and 10 visiting a telecenter in town where they opened an email address each and some of them sending emails to the WSIS international focal point.

The ICT4D kiddie's club coordinator- Mr. Akin Fawole set into action by conducting a computer class for all pupils of Mopelola Nursery and primary school from primary one to primary six from Mondays through to Fridays. A curriculum was drawn for the pupils by the coordinator and his team with a variety of activities carried out along the line, these includes an ICT poster/picture contest, ICT playlet and a regular meeting of the ICT4D kiddies club members every Friday by 11am.

The school now has a functional ICT workshop with 5 computers- thanks to the proprietor who made available these computers within the first two weeks of the launch of the project.

All the graduating set of the 2004/2005 academic sessions all wrote a project, which they typed on their own under the supervision of the ICT4D kiddies club team and were all awarded a certificate in computer appreciation.

The ICT4D kiddie's club project is at the moment working on training all the teachers at Mopelola Nursery and Primary School on the use of the computer and the Internet.

The ICT4D kiddie's club project of the WSIS Volunteer family, which is a pilot, is expected to end in December after which it will be reviewed for use as a national programme in all the public primary schools in Nigeria.

\*\*\* See appendix 1 for Names of winners of the poster/picture contest, ICT4D kiddie's club team members, Sponsors and partnering organisations.

### **Community Connect.Com Newsletter (CC.WEB)**



*Some members of the WSIS Volunteer Family in a rural community*

The need to get the people sensitized on ICTs, MDGs and Volunteering led to the launch of the community connect.com newsletter an official newsletter of the WSIS Volunteer family.

The newsletter, which runs every month, gives information to people on the MDGs, ICT, Youth, Volunteering and other developmental issues. The inaugural meeting of the Community Connect.Com Newsletter was held on March 6 2005 with the

maiden edition produced and circulated on April 21, 2005 amongst Non governmental organisations, Post secondary school students, Youth establishments like barbing saloons, hair dressing saloons and telecenters.

Copies of the newsletters were also distributed through the Nigeria Network of NGOs; the newsletter is at the moment enjoying circulation in all the six geopolitical zones of the country.

With 100 copies in print made available each month to our partnering organisations, the newsletter has so far been receiving series of feedbacks from its readers whom have commended the initiative and have subscribed to having it in their offices, shops and homes every month.

The Newsletter is funded by House 5+ a member of the WSIS Volunteer family in Nigeria

\*\*\*\* See appendix 2 for list of Members of the House 5+ and some copies of the Newsletter.

### **Launch of Free Short Message Services**

A free Short Message Services on the MDGs, ICTs, Youth, Volunteering and other developmental issues was launched on March 13, 2005 as part of efforts to reach and advocate to a wider audience on developmental issues.

A mobile telephone database of participants at the 2004 International Volunteer Day events was used to pilot this project after which we had other people subscribing to the service.

Every month we send out 160 word characters through the mobile phone to individuals on MDGs, ICTs, Youth, Volunteering and other developmental issues. The short message service, which is done in partnership with a young entrepreneur- Mr. Kazeem who runs a mobile telecenter, is sent to over 100 people each month from different parts of the country where we have mobile phone networks functioning.

With some rural areas of Nigeria coming on the GSM network we have been able to reach some rural areas in Nigeria like Olorunda, Atiba, through this service. The free short message service is sent out in the countries major local languages, Hausa, Ibo, Yoruba and also in the countries official language-English.

The project is still ongoing and would run till the remaining half of the year.

\*\*\* See appendix 3 for some messages sent out from March 13<sup>th</sup> till date and for the profile of our major donor in this project - Mr. Kazeem.

### **Rural Voices of Youth Forum (RVOY)**

The Rural Voices of Youth forum is an initiative of the WSIS focal point Mr.Oyebisi. B.Oluseyi, which he developed in Ghana during his participation at the WSIS African Regional Prepcom in February 2005.

Having discussed with some youths in Ghana on the future of ICTs and Rural youths he launched this project as a way of bringing the Rural youths voice to bear on global discussions.



*RVOY team members  
discussing with a rural youth on  
his farm at Olorunda Abaa  
village*

In partnership with the WSIS Volunteer family in Nigeria, this project, which started on March 15 2005, has seen volunteers visiting about 4 rural villages of Nigeria. The project, which is done in collaboration with the UNICEF voices of youth forum runs every month and brings rural youths in Nigeria's voices to the UNICEF Youth Forum hence helping to bridge the digital divide.

Every month a group of Volunteers go to Rural, Peri-urban areas and Villages to have discussions with youths in those areas on discussions of interest to the Rural Voices of Youth Forum team which are taken from the UNICEF Voices of youth forum discussion portal this in our opinion contributes to the attainment of global peace and a just world!

Issues discussed so far on the forum ranged from that of water through to good parenting and also ICT.

The initiative is now being replicated by a group of youths in India with the RVOY team in Nigeria providing them with technical support alongside the UNICEF voices of youth forum team.



\*\*\* visit: [www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction\\_1115.html](http://www.unicef.org/voy/takeaction/takeaction_1115.html) for information on the forum and what rural youths have to say

*Some children in a pose with the RVOY Coordinator.*

## **Rural ICT Workshop**



*A Volunteer computer educationist teaching rural youths at the workshop*

As part of efforts to bridge the digital divide and help rural youths benefit from the importance of the use of ICTs, the WSIS volunteer family in Nigeria in collaboration with, IAVE, Nigeria Network of NGOs, The Conservators, ICVolunteers informal network team and Cygitemmy consult started a rural ICT workshop for Rural youths in Nigeria.

The project, which started in May 14, was launched in Olorunda Abaa village in Lagelu local government area Oyo-state with 30 rural youths from olorunda and neighboring villages attending the workshop.

The workshop, which centers on awareness creation on the importance and relevance of ICT in agriculture and other fields, had the participants working on a computer, type their names and also save their documents.



*Participants at the Rural ICT Workshop*

At the end of the workshop a community development youth forum was launched in the village at the insistence of the youths with the support of their patron.

\*\*\* See appendix 4 for report on the Rural ICT workshop and activities of the community development youth forum.



## **Volunteering, Youth and ICTs Workshop**

In pursuance of the recommendations of the meeting of the WSIS volunteer family in Accra Ghana, the WSIS volunteer family in Nigeria in June facilitated a workshop on June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2005 at the International Youth Forum in Jos organized by Youngstars Foundation International.

Speaking on the theme: Volunteering, Youth and ICTs, the WSIS Focal point in Nigeria highlighted the importance of participants on the value of volunteering as a means of participation through a unified effort, commitment and free will. The need to volunteer for development, why volunteering serves as a great tool for youth participation and the importance of ICTs in development with emphasis on MDGs, NEEDs project of the Federal Government of Nigeria and the role of volunteers in ICT sighting activities of ICVolunteers cyber volunteers programme and the UNV's Online volunteering platform.



Going by the evaluations at the end of the workshop, participants about 42 in number from different states across the federation and representing the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria were happy to hear about volunteering and how it could serve as a means of active citizen participation, of particular reference is the comment by Mr.

Musa

Cross section of  
participants at the  
International Youth  
Conference, Jos 2005

Yahaya who said *"I just want to let you know that your talk on the issue of volunteering really touched me, I hope you will touch my life and community by giving us the support as I am going back to my community to fill a need"*.

At the end of the events a communiqué was issued recommending that all youth participants should go back to their communities to help develop it through the use of ICTs with active participation aimed at building a just world and also help in restructuring the National youth council of Nigeria in their various states by volunteering within their facilities.

\*\*\* A video copy of the workshop will be made available to the International focal points office soon.

## **ENigeria 2005 Conference**



From June 28<sup>th</sup> –30<sup>th</sup> 2005, the WSIS volunteer family in Nigeria participated at the eNigeria 2005 conference organized by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), the Federal government's agency in charge of ICTs in Nigeria under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology. eNigeria is a yearly event organised by the agency.

The team for this year's event is: **ICT deployment for sustainable development in Nigeria Rural Areas.**

*WSIS Volunteer Family Focal Point-Nigeria (Left) in an engaging discussion with Henry of Unite for sight.*

Facilitators for the events were drawn from the private sector-ICT companies, State governors, IT personnel's, University professors, Government officials in charge of ICTs, NITDA etc. Target audience at the events were Local government chairmen's, state Commissioners of science and technology, Directors of relevant ministries, private sector and the general public not forgetting also the youths.

Papers presented at the events ranges from the National IT policy, ICT4D, Internet access in rural areas, transforming rural areas through ICT, MDGs implementation, WSIS plan of action, experience sharing from states that have started using ICTs through to Youths as catalyst for ICTs.



*With Dr Afolabi of ECOWAS (2<sup>nd</sup> left) at the eNigeria 2005 Conference*

The WSIS Volunteer family in Nigeria highlighted the importance of volunteering in ICT deployment in rural areas with a strong call through a statement issued at the conference through the documents submitted by youths at the events on the need to strengthen the Nigerian National Volunteer Service to be able to adequately play this role.

\*\*\* See appendix 5 for the inputs by youths at the conference.



## **World Telecommunications Development Conference-African Regional Prepcom**



The African Regional Prepcom events organised by the Nigerian Communications Commission in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Communications is a workshop for Youths, Women, Civil Society Organisations and the public-Private sector as a prelude to the African Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) to the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC '06).

*Cross section of youth participants at the joint opening of the WTDC conference*

The events which held from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2005, had in attendance Youths, Women, Civil Society Organisations and the public-Private sector from all African countries with each group having different themes for their workshops; The Women group had their theme as: Women, New ICTs and Socio-Economic Transformation.

Participants and Resource persons at the events were drawn from youth, women, civil society and the public-private sectors within the African continent. The three days event saw youths defining their role in the development of ICTs in Africa with emphasis on participation and involvement with call from all youth delegates to the government on funding of youth ICT initiatives and also technological development in Africa.

The WSIS Volunteer family in Nigeria attended the Prepcom and participated at both the civil society and youth links with active participation and advocacy on the role of volunteering in ICT.

\*\*\* See appendix 6 for details of activities at all the conferences.

## **National Online Volunteering Platform**

The WSIS Volunteer Family in Nigeria through the Nigeria Network of NGOs established a national online volunteering platform in collaboration with the United Nations Volunteers Online Volunteering Platform.

The platform, which started in May, now provides opportunity for Non-governmental organisations in Nigeria to benefit from the services of online volunteers at no cost to them.

Dr M. Ashaq Raza a three yearlong standing Eritrean online volunteer with the UNV was the first online volunteer to be recruited and now volunteers as the platforms online volunteering manager and also works on the development reporter newsletter- a newsletter that reports on NGO activities in Nigeria and world over.

Awareness and advocacies on the National online volunteering platform is in progress through the e-newsletter of the Nigeria Network of NGOs, NGO meetings, word of mouth and also on the pages of the Nigeria Network of NGOs website.

The online volunteering platform is fast receiving publicity and interests from NGOs in Nigeria, with an average of 2-5 emails received on the use of the services by the IT department of the Nigeria Network of NGOs on how to make use of this facility.

It is hoped that in the coming months most of the NGOs would be recruiting their online volunteers.

\*\*\* See appendix 7 for a copy of the development reporter and [www.nnngo.org/volunteer](http://www.nnngo.org/volunteer) for information on the National online volunteering platform.

## **Constraints**

In carrying out its activities the WSIS Volunteer family in Nigeria encountered the following constraints, which served as a catalyst to its activities:

- I. Low level of Awareness on Volunteering and ICTs
- II. Bureaucratic bottle necks
- III. Lack of adequate computers for training under the Rural ICT workshop project
- IV. Lack of Infrastructures such as Electricity in rural areas thereby bringing added cost on our budget as we have to source for an alternative power-Electric Generators.
- V. Due to the lack of electricity about 4 of our computers were lost to high power voltage from alternative source of electricity used for training in the rural areas.
- VI. As funding is key to development and a scarce resource everywhere it did create a bottleneck for some of our activities.

## **Conclusion**

Volunteering across borders has its major differences with little knowledge from Nigeria on Volunteering, research has shown that in Europe volunteering is well acknowledged with public announcements played on the television or over the radio recognizing the contributions volunteers make to society and encouraging more people to get involved.

There is much more to do, if volunteering is recognised this much in Europe by an important part of its society, then the same should apply to societies in Nigeria and indeed Africa, we need to advocate that a culture of volunteering, of helping one another, exists in Nigeria, and that too needs to be recognized and equally cultivated in all developmental sectors.

It is clearly evident that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) cannot be achieved if people do not involve themselves through voluntary action, In view of the above the WSIS Volunteer family in Nigeria commits itself to the promotion of volunteerism and also the strengthening and repositioning of Volunteers, Volunteer involving organisations, Volunteer organisations and National Volunteer Services.



*NNNGO Volunteer-Wale Fawole presenting goodwill messages from UNICEF Voices of Youth Forum, US and Eve Sullivan of Parents Forum, Massachusetts, USA at a workshop on Children and the UN organized by RVOY in collaboration with the ICT4D kiddies club-a project of the WSIS Volunteer Family in Nigeria*

We strongly recommend:

- ✓ A sensitization programme, seminar or conference on volunteering and ICTs between now and December 5, 2005 when the International Volunteer day would be celebrated.
- ✓ An active online discussion group on volunteering and ICTs, MDGs and other Developmental issues
- ✓ An active International network of Volunteers, Volunteer organisations and Volunteer involving organisations.
- ✓ An e-newsletter on Volunteering and Volunteer activities worldwide on ICT and the MDGs
- ✓ A national network of Volunteers, Volunteer organisations and Volunteer involving organisations.
- ✓ An effective volunteer exchange programme on ICT4D.

- ✓ A dedicated and regularly updated website page on [www.worldvolunteerweb.org](http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org) and [www.worldwidevolunteer.org](http://www.worldwidevolunteer.org)
- ✓ Mobilize funds for Volunteer activities at both National and International levels for ICT4D activities.

All recommendations could be linked to that of existing networks and where none exists it should be retained and acted upon without further delay.

The WSIS Volunteer families activities in Nigeria was made possible through the support and activities of members and executive council of the Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO), members of the International Association for Volunteer Efforts (IAVE), International Conference Volunteers (ICV)-Nigeria, National Volunteer Service (NNVS), Cygitemmy Consult, K.C ventures, The Conservators, Staff and Pupils of Mopelola Memorial Nursery and Primary School, Girl Guide Oyo-state Branch, House 5+, UNICEF Voices of Youth Forum, Rural Voices of Youth Forum team, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and United Nations Volunteers Online Volunteering Platform, eNigeria 2005 Youth Caucus, Community leaders of rural areas visited such as Alaadorin, Olorunda, and Individuals such as Dr Rose Ekeleme (IAVE), Ms Yemisi Ransome Kuti (NNNGO), Dr. Mrs Oluwadiya (Nigeria National Volunteer Service), Mr. Bimbola Atobatele (JTC), Mr. Ishmael Adeoye (FRIN), Mrs. Layeni (Girl Guide Commissioner), Gbade Fawole, Barrister Vitalis (AFAVA), Mr. Kunle Idowu (Kunle Idowu & Associates), Mrs A. Afolabi (Wife Commissioner for Health-Oyo state), Pamela Braide (YES Country Coordinator), Gbenga Sesan (AYIN), Pastor. Victor Lemuel (CHESTRAD), Amber Oliver and Deidre Vermont of UNICEF Voices of Youth Forum, Andrea and Elsie of the United Nations Volunteers/OV, Eve Sullivan of Parents Forum USA, Keith Steiduhar of Westminster botanical gardens Colorado.

\*\*\* See appendix 8 for a list of Members of the WSIS Volunteer Family in Nigeria,

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1:**

**Names of winners of poster contest organized by the ICT4D kiddies club of the WSIS Volunteer Family.**

- 1 Lolade Adewunmi
- 2 Tope Jegede
- 3 Munminat Yusuff

### **ICT4D kiddies Club Members**

**Fawole Akintunde Emmanuel (Mr.)**-Team Leader

**Adeniyi. J.O (Ms)** Member

**Agboola. A.O (Ms)** Member

**Ayinde Esther (Ms)** Member

### **Sponsors and Partnering Organizations**

Mrs. A.I. Jegede – Proprietress Mopelola Nursery and Primary School

The Conservators

Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNGO)

International Association for Volunteer Efforts (IAVE)

International Conference Volunteers (ICV) -Informal Network in Nigeria

### **Appendix 2**

#### **List of Members of House 5+**

1. Paulinus.U.Amaeze
2. Fawole Olawale Moses
3. Oloyede Opeolorun Emmanuel
4. Akintunde Emmanuel Fawole
5. Atobatele Abimbola
6. Adeoye Ismail
7. Taiwo Noah Fawole
8. Atobatele Yinka
9. Ayorinde Olanipekun
10. Yomi Aderibigbe

Some copies of the Community connect is here attached.

### **Appendix 3**

## **Samples of messages sent through our free SMS service launched in March 2005.**

**March:** *Information Communication Technology is a great tool for development, learn to use it today- WSIS Volunteer Family.*

**April:** *MDGs are Millennium Development Goals that must be realized by 2015, visit [www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org) today- WSIS VF*

**May:** *The MDGs are realizable through active volunteering, visit [www.worldvolunteerweb.org](http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org) and [www.worldwidevolunteer.org](http://www.worldwidevolunteer.org)*

**June:** *Volunteering, Youth and ICTs an imperative for national development, contact [seyi@nnngo.org](mailto:seyi@nnngo.org) for details- WSIS VF*

**July:** *Achieving the MDGs by 2015 is our collective responsibility, take action now!!! – WSIS VF*

**August:** *The secret of globalization is ICT, have you learnt how? Be computer literate today-WSIS VF*

## **Profile of our Major Donor in the Free SMS Project**

Mr. Kazeem is a 22-year-old young Nigerian entrepreneur with a senior school certificate. He runs a telecenter at the popular Gate spare parts market in Ibadan, Oyo state. Kazeem a hard working young man started his small business with videocassette rentals before expanding into the telecenter business.

His small-scale business has in its employment two staffs that manage his video club and telecenter. The business is on an average sales income of \$5 and \$10 per day.

When approached to provide the Free SMS project of the WSIS Volunteer Family with between 35-70 free text messages on his telecenter lines, he graciously obliged us. An SMS service costs about 9 cents, with the donation of at least 35 free SMS to us by Mr. Kazeem at the rate of 9cents per text gives a total of \$8.86 cents per month, from March till August he has donated to us a total of 245 text messages all valued at \$27.02cents.

We at the WSIS Volunteer Family value this contribution from the young entrepreneur- Mr. Kazeem



## **Appendix 4**

### **REPORT ON RURAL ICT WORKSHOP HELD AT OLORUNDA ABAA VILLAGE IN LAGELU LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF OYO-STATE, NIGERIA ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY 2005**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The idea of having the rural ICT workshop grew from discussions between the WSIS Volunteer Family work group in Nigeria, Rural Voices of Youth Forum team, ICT4D kiddies club and a rural youth from Olorunda Abaa Village of Lagelu local government. With series of consultations and interests on ICT in and around the community amongst youths, it was resolved that the rural ICT workshop be held in the village as part of the WSIS volunteer families activities on what Volunteers can bring to ICT and in line with the Rural Voices of Youth Forum's objective of bridging the digital divide.

Fixing a date for the event and preparing for the day wasn't an easy one, as we had to work in line with the schedule of all stakeholders i.e both the facilitators and the participants.

#### **ABOUT OLORUNDA VILLAGE**

Olorunda Abaa Village is in Lagelu local government of Oyo –State with 6 public schools with dilapidated buildings, one secondary school, Private primary schools do exist in the community and they charge as low as between \$6-\$8 per term. The main occupation of people in this area is subsistence farming (Crop and livestock), Soap making and other artisanal activities. Rural Urban migration is high with two out of every ten youths staying behind in the village after their secondary education in the community. No good source of water except rivers Ojutu and Olokana that serves the village. Electricity supply to the village is erratic with a road linking the village with other parts of the city of Ibadan and Oyo town. Olorunda Abaa has a community head that administers its affairs.

#### **WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS**

The workshop participants were all youths from Olorunda village and neighboring village's majority of whom are secondary school pupils, only two had post secondary school qualifications. Average age of the participants is put at 18 years. (See appendix for list of participants)

#### **WORKSHOP**

The goodwill messages of the WSIS Volunteer Family International Focal Point – Viola Krebs were conveyed to the participants alongside the objectives of the World summit on the Information science and the Rural Voices of Youth Forum.

The workshop was held in the community's local language i.e Yoruba language. The Workshop was divided into two sessions, the introductory and practical sessions.

Mr. Akin Fawole of the ICT4D kiddie's club a project of the WSIS Volunteer Family in Nigeria taught the participants on the introductory aspect of the workshop, while Mr. Oloyede Opeolorun Emmanuel Oyo-state Coordinator of the Software freedom day handled the second session.

All enjoyed the first session, which took the participants on an introduction to the computer. A tea break was then introduced during which participants had the opportunity of interacting with each

other and asking questions from the Facilitators such as: (1) Can we in any way use television sets with a C.P.U?

(2) Can we play VCD's on the computer?

The second session, which is the practical phase, had three participants to a computer with each learning how to create a document, type their names and save a document. After the second session participants at the workshop were then asked to contribute to global discussions on Intergenerational changes, which is ongoing within the UNICEF voices of youth forums web portal.

At the end of the programme participants then requested that they would be happy to have a Youth forum within the community that would seek to help develop the community.

An inaugural meeting on this was held by the WSIS Volunteer Family work group in Nigeria, Rural Voices of Youth Forum team and all the participants at the workshop.

It was resolved at the meeting that the name of the youth forum in the area be called Community Development Youth Forum and all unanimously accepted it. General elections were held where seven offices were keenly contested for. (See appendix for minutes of meeting and executives list)

## **SPONSORS**

The workshop was sponsored by the ICT4D kiddies club, Cygitemmy Consult, WSIS Volunteer Family work group in Nigeria, IAVE, The Fawole's Clan of Olorunda Abaa Village, ICV Nigeria, African Sustainable Small Enterprise Export Development Foundation (ASSEED) and the Nigeria Network of NGOs.

## **CONSTRAINT**

- Non-availability of adequate computers hampered us from having one participant to a computer.
- Lack of stable source of electricity in the village saw us depending on a generating set, which due to high voltage spoilt one of our computers.

## **CONCLUSION**

At the end of the workshop, the facilitators of the workshop were taken round the village and also to their farms, where the facilitators saw the need to incorporate ICT into agriculture for development and were also impressed by the level of agricultural activities carried out by the Youths.

In his remarks the Focal point for the Rural ICT workshop in Olorunda, Mr. Fawole Gbade thanked the facilitators and highlighted that the major problem of the Youths in the village is information and that they would be happy if information's could be made available to them on Agriculture, youth activities and other developmental activities locally and internationally. In response the WSIS Volunteer Family Focal point in Nigeria who had earlier briefed the participants on the WSIS process and the Rural voices of youth forum assured the participants of continued access to information from the group and support to their newly formed group- Community development youth forum.

## **APPENDICES**

### **(A) LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

1. Ajani Abiodun
2. Adetunji Fawole
3. Faloye Ife
4. Oyebamiji Abiodun
5. Adeagbo Abisodun
6. Olalekan Muiyiwa
7. Efuwape Femi
8. Efuwape Olaolu

9. Femi bamidele
10. Akintunde Abiodun Adijat
11. Adeagbo Kayode
12. Ajayi jumoke
13. Adetunji Adebayo Steven
14. Oyewole semiat
15. Ajayi obafemi
16. Fawole Origbade.M

**(B) Attendance of Inaugural meeting of the Community Development Forum of Olorunda Abaa Village held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2005.**

**ATTENDANCE**

1. Ajani Abiodun	Olorunda Abaa Village
2. Adetunji Fawole	Olorunda Abaa Village
3. Faloye Ife	Olorunda Abaa Village
4. Oyebamiji Abiodun	Olorunda Abaa Village
5. Adeagbo Abisodun	Olorunda Abaa Village
6. Olalekan Muiyiwa	Olorunda Abaa Village
7. Efuwape Femi	Olorunda Abaa Village
8. Efuwape Olaolu	Olorunda Abaa Village
9. Femi bamidele	Olorunda Abaa Village
10. Akintunde Abiodun Adijat	Olorunda Abaa Village
11. Adeagbo Kayode	Olorunda Abaa Village
12. Ajayi jumoke	Olorunda Abaa Village
13. Adetunji Adebayo Steven	Olorunda Abaa Village
14. Oyewole semiat	Olorunda Abaa Village
15. Ajayi obafemi	Olorunda Abaa Village
16. Fawole Origbade.M	Olorunda Abaa Village
17. Oloyede Opeolorun Emmanuel	Cygitemmy Consult
18. Paulinus. U. Amaeze	WSIS Volunteer Family
19. Fawole Akintunde Emmanuel	ICT4D Kiddies Club
20. Ayorinde	Rural Voices of Youth Forum
21. Yomi Aderibigbe	WSIS Volunteer Family
22. Oyebisi.B.Oluseyi	WSIS Volunteer Family/RVOY.

**NB:** As at the time of sending in report, the minutes of the meeting has not been made available to the office of the WSIS volunteer family focal point by the secretary of the community development youth forum. We hope to send it in as soon as it is made available to us.

Thanks.

**Report of Activities of the Community Development Youth Forum of Olorunda Abaa Village as submitted by the Team leader**

**Day:** Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2005

**Venue:** Along Igbagbo Olorunda Abaa Village

**Time:** 10:30am

**Activities:** Road Rehabilitation

**Aims and Objectives:** The road was decided upon to be rehabilitated by the community development youth forum because of the fact that the area according to rating is the largest producer of agricultural products in Lagelu local government area of Ibadan. The road which has caused some havoc to movement during raining season has no doubt affected the transportation of products from the farm to the market as it links about 23 villages together, they are: Atobaba, Igabagbo, Kanango, Obilana, Laabaja, Baale, Olooyo, Atata, Abaso, Amugba, Alase, Onkeke, Olodo, Kutayi, Jagun, Olokuta, Olobi, Jenriyin, Alugin, Onituuku, Gbodogbodo and Elesin-nla.

Activities carried out on the road were, expansion by cutting down the bush beside the road and also expanding it, filling the road with stones for easy passage of vehicles, extension of the covet and also clearing of blocked part of the covet to enhance easy flow of water.

In attendance for the exercise were the following members of the forum:

Oyewole Semiat (Treasurer)  
Akintunde Biodun (Vice President)  
Olalekan Muyiwa  
Ajala Biodun  
Olubayo Daniel (Guest from a Neighboring Village)  
Adeagbo Kayode (PRO 1)  
Efunwape Femi  
Fawole Gbade (Project coordinator)  
Efunwape Olaolu (Secretary)  
Oyebamiji Biodun  
Faloye Ife (Chief Whip)  
Olubayo John (Guest from a neighboring village)



*some of the youths posing for a snap shot*

Activities ended at exactly 2:30pm with a closing prayer by Fawole Origbade.

## **Appendix 5**

### **Input by Youths at the eNigeria 2005 Conference on ICT deployment in Nigeria Rural areas**

e-Nigeria Youth Caucus | [www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/enigeria](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/groups/enigeria) | [enigeria@edwardpopoola.com](mailto:enigeria@edwardpopoola.com)

#### **Youth, A catalyst for ICT Deployment in Nigerian Rural Areas.**

##### **A youth Input to eNigeria 2005.**

Youths form a majority of the over 65% Nigerians living in rural areas. They are between the ages of 18 and 35. They are the major workforces of the Nigerian economy and every developmental structure is built on their shoulders.

Hence for any remarkable deployment of ICTs in the rural areas, there is a need to integrate these young people into the whole ICT deployment idea, and their energies directed towards achieving same. The eNigeria Youth Caucus, arising from a roundtable discussion, therefore recommends the following.

Building on Youth energies

1. A priority must be placed on the Education of young people in our rural communities. A curriculum review campaign in our local and state governments to recognize the place of IT.
2. Young People must be empowered. They must have access to these technologies in order to use them e.g. through Community Information Centers.
3. NITDA should implement a blueprint for youth corps members to enhance ICT education/training in rural areas.
4. The Civil Society should come in for training and in capacity building. There is also a need for content development (Curriculum) and local content development leveraging on the language skills of these people.
5. There should be a heavy incentive for IT firms that extend some of their services to rural areas. E.g. subsidies in computer sales/repair. (Local governments should be compelled to computerize their activities; to create a need for the services of these IT Companies).
6. Private Sector/Civil Society partnership to develop sustainable digital villages e.g. The Lagos Digital Village, Lagos.
7. The Nigerian National Volunteer Service should be strengthened to recruit and manage IT volunteers who are willing to go to rural communities across the country.

## **Appendix 6**

### **Details of Conferences attended by the WSIS Volunteer Family**

<b>Event:</b>	<b>International Youth Forum</b>
<b>Organisers:</b>	<b>Young stars Foundation International</b>
<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Participate, Represent, Make your voice heard</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>22-24<sup>th</sup> June 2005</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Jos</b>

The International Youth Forum is a yearly event organised by Young stars foundation a not for profit youth led organisation. The organisation strengthens and trains youth organisations and young people to participate in development programmes in Nigeria.

The theme of this year's forum is: Participate, Represent, Make your voice heard. Facilitators for the events were drawn from youth and youth involving organisations, with the youths in total control of the events. Participants at the events came from all the six geo political zones of the country ranging from Youth led organisations, Youth involving organisations to the National youth council of Nigeria with the average age of participants put at 25 years.

Series of papers were presented by Youth facilitators at the events on issues ranging from Youth participation, Review of the National youth policy through to volunteering, Youth and ICTs. All workshop facilitators emphasized the need for youth participation and involvement by committing to excellence and preservation of integrity in whatever they do.

The WSIS Volunteer Family participated at the events as a Facilitator on the topic: Volunteering, Youth and ICTs. In this workshop we took the participants on the value of volunteering as a means of participation through a unified effort, commitment and free

will. The need to volunteer for development, why volunteering serves as a great tool for youth participation and the importance of ICTs in development with Mention given to activities of the following organisations: EU, ICV, IAVE, NNNGO, EFA, CIVICUS Youth group on MDGs, UNICEF-VOY and RVOY, UNV.

Going by the evaluations at the end of the workshop, participants about 42 in number were happy to hear about volunteering and how it could serve as a means of active citizen participation, of particular reference is the comment by Mr. Musa Yahaya who said *"I just want to let you know that your talk on the issue of volunteering really touched me, I hope you will touch my life and community by giving us the support as I am going back to my community to fill a need"*.

At the end of the events a communiqué was issued recommending that all youth participants should go back to their communities to help develop it through active participation aimed at building a just world and also help in restructuring the National youth council of Nigeria in their various states.

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<b>Event:</b>	<b>eNigeria 2005</b>
<b>Organisers:</b>	<b>National Information Technology Development Agency-Federal Ministry of Science and Technology.</b>
<b>Theme:</b>	<b>ICT deployment for sustainable development in Nigeria Rural Areas.</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>June 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> 2005.</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Ecowas Secretariat Abuja</b>

The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) is the Federal government's agency in charge of ICTs in Nigeria under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology. eNigeria is a yearly event organised by the agency.

The team for this year's event is: ICT deployment for sustainable development in Nigeria Rural Areas. Facilitators for the events were drawn from the private sector-ICT companies, State governors, IT personnel's, University professors, Government officials in charge of ICTs, NITDA etc. Target audience at the events were Local government chairmen's, state Commissioners of science and technology, Directors of relevant ministries, private sector and the general public not forgetting also the youths.

Recognizing the need for active youth participation the Organisers of the conference made available twenty scholarships for youth delegates to the events which covers their conference fee, launch at the events and conference materials. Participants were selected through an essay competition written by prospective youth participants to the conference with selections made on merit. Nigeria's ICT youth Ambassador Mr. Edward Popoola led the youth delegation to the events.

Papers presented at the events ranges from the National IT policy, ICT4D, Internet access in rural areas, transforming rural areas through ICT, MDGs implementation, WSIS plan of action, experience sharing from states that have started using ICTs through to Youths as catalyst for ICTs.

Presenters at the workshop highlights the need for ICTs to be deployed in the development of Nigerian rural areas, experiences from some states shared at the conference centered on the use of ICT in recruitment, Establishment of digital centers in states and some local government areas.



Youth delegates to the conference including the National focal point- Mr. Oyebisi made our voices heard by coming up with recommendations on how ICTs can be deployed for sustainable development in our rural areas. The following recommendations were presented in behalf of the youths by Nigeria's IT youth Ambassador to all the delegates at the events. (A copy of this is attached).

Overall participation of delegates at the events was encouraging with commitments coming from the Ecowas secretariat on more youth participation in future eNigeria events.

A communiqué was issued at the end of the events calling on all stakeholders to work on ICT deployment in rural areas of Nigeria. (Copies of the communiqué would be made available soon)

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<b>Event:</b>	<b>World Telecommunications Development Conference-African Regional Prepcom</b>
<b>Organisers:</b>	<b>International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Federal Ministry of Communications, Nigeria in collaboration with Nigerian Communications Commission.</b>
<b>Theme:</b>	<b>Role of Youth in Telecommunication Development.</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>July 1 -3<sup>rd</sup> 2005.</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Musa Yar'Adua Conference Center Abuja.</b>

The African Regional Prepcom events organised by the Nigerian Communications Commission in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Communications is a workshop for Youths, Women, Civil Society Organisations and the public-Private sector as a prelude to the African Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) to the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC '06).

The events had in attendance Youths, Women, Civil Society Organisations and the public-Private sector from all African countries with each group having different themes for their workshops; The Women group had their theme as: Women, New ICTs and Socio-Economic Transformation

The events had in attendance Youths, Women, Civil Society Organisations and the public-Private sector from all African countries with each group having different themes for their workshops; The Women group had their theme as: Women, New ICTs and Socio-Economic Transformation.

Participants and Resource persons at the events were drawn from youth, women, civil society and the public-private sectors within the African continent. The three days event saw youths defining their role in the development of ICTs in Africa with emphasis on participation and involvement with call from all youth delegates to the government on funding of youth ICT initiatives and also technological development in Africa.

Youth delegates to the Prepcom also identified the strong need for a technological transformation and a call on the public-private sector to establish ICT centers that could help not only in bridging the digital divide but to also aid Africa's development.

## **Appendix 7**

**See attachment for a copy of development reporter developed by our online Volunteer Dr. Maliq Asahq.**

## **Appendix 8**

### **List of Members of the WSIS Volunteer Family in Nigeria**

- 1. International Association for Volunteer Efforts (IAVE)**
- 2. Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO)**
- 3. International Conference Volunteers (ICV) Informal Network in Nigeria**
- 4. The Conservators**
- 5. Girls Guide Oyo-state Branch**
- 6. Community Development Youth Forum- Olorunda Abaa Village**
- 7. Mopelola Nursery and Primary School**
- 8. Cyigitemmy Consult**
- 9. Pamela Braide- YES Country Coordinator**
- 10. Kunle Idowu & Associates**
- 11. Fawole Akintunde Emmanuel- ICT4D Kiddies Club**
- 12. Oloyede Opeolorun Emmanuel – NNNGO Webmaster**
- 13. Paulinus.U.Amaeze – CC.Web Newsletter**
- 14. Fawole. Olawale Moses – Rural Voices of Youth Forum**
- 15. Fazoranti Oluseyi Taiwo – International Association for Volunteer Efforts**
- 16. Ayorinde Olanipekun – Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ago Iwoye**
- 17. Yomi Aderibigbe – Volunteer**
- 18. Atobatele Bimbo – House 5+**
- 19. Gbade Fawole – Community Youth Development Forum**
- 20. Dr. Rose Ekeleme – National Focal Point WSIS Volunteer Family**
- 21. Oyebisi.B.Oluseyi – National Focal Point WSIS Volunteer Family**