Summit on Community Networks in Africa & Wireless Networking
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Fantsuam Foundation
Creating Opportunities for Growth and Service

MISSION: To eliminate poverty and disadvantage through integrated development programs

PROGRAMS: Rural ICT Development, Sustainable Livelihoods and Health

Cross-cutting issues: Gender, Disability, National Volunteering, HIV/AIDS and Ageing issues
The integrated approach to development enables us to work with what our communities identify as their priorities:

- Microfinance services, 95% dedicated to women smallholder farmers and women retailers
Women smallholder farmers
Fantsuam Services cotd

- Community-managed grazing reserve. This initiative has a solar powered borehole where women fetch water for domestic use.

- Supporting Older Persons. KAKAS = Grandmothers who are caring for orphans. Fantsuam has 126 on our books providing home-based care, psychosocial support, housing, social protection and legal aid.
Community owned Grazing Reserve
Supporting Older Persons
Educational Program: School Based Management Committee, SBMC, is a new program that ensures that communities have a say in the management of the public schools in their communities. Fantsuam has trained 84 Women’s groups to become active members of the SBMC
Computer-Based Test Centre
Wireless network training
Infrastructural challenges

- Undulating topography, tall trees affect line of sight for radio communications
- Connectivity at base station by VSAT, expensive. Nearest optic fibre access requires high cost
- Cost of radios and antennas, all imported. Maintenance of equipment getting due attention of innovative youths
- Power, reliance on solar: cost of battery rising as cost of solar dropping. Battery disposal a challenge
- Security of equipment: thefts and vandalism.
- Most important infrastructure: technical expertise. Highly trained staff poached by urban private sector and international NGOs. High staff turn over. Our contribution to national development
Development challenges

- Set backs due to political instability: economic downturn, security of life and property
- Community engagement in identifying causes, solutions, quick wins
- Emphasis on vulnerable members of the community: older persons, people with disabilities,
- Critical role as a trusted impartial arbiter
- Identified with all community challenges, recognized and accepted as a critical stakeholder in community development
CN In Conflict Situations
Community Networks in Conflict Situations

» Loss of lives
» Destruction of infrastructure
» Inaccessible locations due to security concerns.

» Rebuilding such communities provides an opportunity to use Community Network as a glue to restore community cohesion and resilience.
CN In Conflict Situations
CN In Conflict Situations
Community Networks
As a Peace Building Strategy

» The CN Philosophy of community ownership and community management of communal assets

» Loss of Lives and Properties presents an opportunity to create a communal asset such as Community Network

» Its potentials for rebuilding trust and mutual respect
CN for Community Resilience

» Medium to long-term sustainability
» Security and protection of communal property
» Youth entrepreneurship and eCommerce enabled
» Peace enabled as poverty issues are addressed with involvement of entire community
Regulatory Environment for Community Networks

» Where is the locus of power in an environment where there are competing Government agencies?

» What treaties is Nigeria a signatory to, which is sitting un-implemented because no one has asked the Government about it. E.g.

» What is the global guidelines on collocation of radios on towers?

» How much of TV White spaces and GSM Wide spaces remain unused?
Local capacity is critical for CN
Na gode, Thank you from my chief