



# Second Summit on Community Networks in Africa

Summit on Community Networks in Africa &  
Wireless Networking

Workshop 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2017

John Dada, Yakubu Ezekiel

**Fantsuam Foundation, Nigeria**



# 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



# Fantsuam Services

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





# Fantsuam Services cotd

- 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



# ZITTNET: Nigeria's First Rural Community Wireless Network.





# 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 vandalization.
- 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**

