



Description

This template contains the framework for communicating project status information to FIRE PROGRAMME. This template will enable you to keep stakeholders apprised of the status of your project.

Version Control

Version	Description	Author	Date
1.0	Initial version	DECI	
1.1	Amended version	AKΣ Consulting	May 2014

PART 1:
GUIDELINES OF THE REPORT

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Reporting guidelines

FIRE PROGRAMME Reports should focus on reflecting on the lessons learned during the project implementation, while documenting what was achieved with the money and time invested during the life of the project.

FIRE PROGRAMME understands that reporting can be a demanding, time-consuming exercise that if conducted for the benefit of the funding agency alone, might overlook aspects of project implementation of great relevance for the project team and their future work.

FIRE PROGRAMME encourages recipients to experience the benefits of developing reports for their own use, by identifying the main area(s) where the project team wants to focus their evaluation efforts to gain a deeper understanding of the project implementation for the benefit of the project team and the organization as a whole.

FIRE PROGRAMME requires two types of reports -financial and technical- to be submitted to the FIRE PROGRAMME secretariat:

- **Progress report:** FIRE will use this document for internal monitoring purposes (not for public distribution) focusing on processes and operational issues, providing context for project implementation and revised timeframes. Progress reports should be short, concise (maximum 20 pages long excluding guidelines, project factsheet information and content table). Findings documented as part of the progress report, as part of the progress reports will be used by the FIRE secretariat to promote the supported project. Only selected content from the technical report will be used for promotion purposes. Recipients are encouraged to define the ways they want to use the reports for their own benefits. Progress reports are reviewed and approved by the FIRE Steering Committee to be able to process disbursements as per the signed contract. No disbursements will be processed until progress reports are submitted, reviewed and approved.
- **Final report:** FIRE will use this document for public distribution. Recipients are encouraged to define the ways they want to use the reports for their own benefits. Is important that the project team defines uses and users in the progress report, so the final report can focus on that. FIRE secretariat will help to facilitate the use of the report findings, by identifying other opportunities aligned with your requirements. The final reporting is an opportunity to synthesize and assess the activities conducted as part of the grant, while reflecting on the project's management, limitations, and achievements during the project lifecycle. It should include a review of the findings included in the progress report. Short, concise (maximum 30 pages long excluding guidelines, project factsheet information and content table). Findings documented as part of the final report, as part of the progress reports will be used by the FIRE secretariat to promote the supported

project. Final technical reports will be edited by AFRINIC Communications Unit to be made available for the general public for download on the FIRE PROGRAMME website.

Reports must be submitted by email to fireprogram@afinic.net using the following **template**, as per the proposal originally approved for funding.

Please **do not modify the template** layout and use the structure provided to guide your reporting process. All the *Tips* coloured boxes at the beginning of every section in the template will be removed by AFRINIC from your reports before public distribution.

Please use only *Heading 2 and below* for formatting your project report, so when you update the Table of contents all requested information is easily located throughout the document. *Heading 1* has been used when designing this template, to define the sections requested by FIRE PROGRAMME.

FIRE PROGRAMME Grant Recipients are encouraged to share the progress of the project through fireprogram@afinic.net mailing list, where current recipients are subscribed.

FIRE PROGRAMME encourages project teams to document project activities using other forms of information sharing, such as blogs, wikis, collaborative tools, social media feeds, etc. The reports should include a brief description of the communications strategy implemented by the project team. Please share the links for additional documentation efforts conducted as part of your technical reports.

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PART 2:

PROJECT INFORMATIONS

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Project factsheet information

Project title: *Expanding BOSCO Uganda Internet/Intranet network access to the rural remote communities in northern Uganda.*

Grant recipient: BOSCO Uganda

Dates covered by this report: *1st November 2016 to 31st October 2017.*

Report submission date:

Country where project was implemented: *Uganda*

Project leader name: *Rev. Fr. Dr. Joseph Okumu +25677263517*

Team members (list): Rev. Fr. Dr. Joseph Okumu, Tonny Okwonga, George Odoch, Benson Olobo, Solomon Okot Nono, Francis Onencan Onek, Denis Steward Komakech and Paul Anguyo

Partner organizations:

Total budget approved: *79,954,900/=*

Project summary:

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Project Summary

The project contributed towards ending the digital divide in the rural community in northern Uganda through intranet and internet in the past year of the project life. Significant contributions were made through provision of adequate power and equipment which has resulted into an increase from 100 to 300 users accessing ICT & D Centers with 1.5mbps of internet for 270 days in the project life. Moreover, the project improved social interaction and use of facilities as time spent at the ICT&D Centers improved from an average 8 hours per day to 12 hours in the seven sites. This will go a long way in healing the wounds that were created due to isolation in camps and from the economic world. To date, 90% of installation materials, 100% of power and 67% network equipment procured and installed for the seven sites. Besides, 75% of the sites have already been connected to BOSCO Uganda's intranet/internet to increase the access and usage of computers with intranet/internet in the targeted community.. The ICTand D Centres' users have reported a great importance of the internet access as they are now able to get up-to-dated agricultural market information and input prices for various farmers to sell their commodities at appropriate prices without the engagement of middlemen who would otherwise cheat them in pricing. The farmers can now check for prices by accessing websites such as www.infotradeuganda.com, www.agrinetug.net, www.agromarket.com and www.akorion.com among others from the convenience of their village with a click of a mouse.he project has also greatly bridged the communication gaps amongst the different communities who use to travel long distance to send letters to their friends and family members by just opening email and social media accounts within the shortest possible time. Even the school going pupils/students have greatly improved on their knowledge by reading and researching their class assignments for different subjects using the ICT centres' intranet/internet access. Further the district local government leaders within the project areas frequently visit the ICT centres to send and receive email communications from their district offices and central government.

Additional contribution towards achieving the goal is the upgrade of 5 relay towers of 5 that has significantly increased on the Uptime of the network radios between towers to 24/7 with up to 270days of uptime since the upgrade on those relay tower from 5 of 11 to 10 of 11 BOSCO-Uganda relay tower.



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This has made ICT sites to have an increase in the beneficiaries' access time from 8 hours per day to 12 or more hours per day.

The above contributions are in the right direction for rural transformation through enhancing socio-economic growth where farmers can advertise for their commodities, especially the youth can learn about new innovation and creativity quickly thus leading to poverty reduction. More still, with the completion of installation of the point to point network infrastructure and bringing connectivity to these remote places, there has been an increase of 1.5 Mbps internet bandwidth to cater for the newly connected remote ICT & D cNtres. This wil further increase information access to BOSCO Uganda's intranet/internet by the end of December 2017 to fully achieve the project goal.

Background and Justification

Name of the recipient: *Battery Operated Systems for Community Outreach Uganda (BOSCO Uganda).*

Project location: *Northern Uganda*

Rationale of the project;

Acholi sub-region indicators for development are still well below the national average. About 90 Percent consist of rural areas with limited or no access to technological infrastructure, communication and information facilities including internet and other modern forms of communication.

Over the years BOSCO Uganda has scaled up its operations to cover the entire Northern Uganda and is using ICT to promote peace and socio-economic development. In its programme intervention BOSCO Uganda envisions open and peaceful rural communities, ready to face the challenges and opportunities of the globalized world in the 21st century. BOSCO Uganda therefore stands to provide innovative ICT solutions using a collaborative, web-based approach to foster social and economic development, Human Rights promotion and Peace building in rural communities in Northern Uganda.

Despite the successes registered especially in establishing the 32 ICT and D Centers in the remote rural communities, provision of internet Access Points and capacity building have not been given to all this ICT sites, only 15 ICT sites are currently connected to the internet/intranet. BOSCO Uganda has continued to face the challenges of expanding internet/intranet access to all the established sites due



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to limited network infrastructure and network equipment to reach out to most of these remote areas in Northern Uganda. Inline with the above mentioned strategic approach to connect all the 32 ICT &D Centers, this funding has enable BOSCO Uganda to connect 5 point to point relay towers as well as 7 ICT sites (1 in Gulu, 2 in Pader, 2 in Lira and 2 in Kitgum District).

Project history;

BOSCO Uganda is a faith-based non-governmental organization which was started in 2007 with the roll-out of a long range wifi network providing critical communications channels to local authorities and IDP camps amidst the Lord's Resistance Army insurgency in northern Uganda. BOSCO Uganda currently manages a network of 27 ICT centers and provides fixed point internet access to ICT centers, local government offices and private entities in Northern Uganda. BOSCO Uganda also conducts ICT and livelihood trainings in the region. Acholi sub-region indicators for development are still well below the national average. About 90 Percent consist of rural areas with limited or no access to infrastructure, communication and information facilities including internet and other modern forms of communication. Over the years BOSCO Uganda has scaled up its operations to cover the entire Northern Uganda and is using ICT to promote peace and socio-economic development. In its programme intervention BOSCO Uganda envisions open and peaceful rural communities, ready to face the challenges and opportunities of the globalized world in the 21st century. BOSCO Uganda therefore stands to provide innovative ICT solutions using a collaborative, web-based approach to foster social and economic development, Human Rights promotion and Peace building in rural communities in Northern Uganda. As its strategic programme areas, BOSCO Uganda focuses on ICT and Computer education, ICT for Sustainable rural development, livelihoods and income generating activities; Research and installation of innovative ICT Technologies for rural areas and preservation of positive cultural values. For the past 10 years BOSCO Uganda intervention focused on the following key activities; Installation and maintenance of ICT sites in Rural Communities, Extending internet connectivity to the established ICT centres and institutions, Establishment and training of ICT Centre Management Committees, Community and Media events to create awareness and promote peace, Trainer of Trainees (ToT) Training in Computer Education, Computer training in Web 2.0 , office applications and life skills for youth and young people, Supporting youths Income generating activities, Youth Entrepreneurship essential trainings and Basic ICT maintenance and management training. Despite the successes registered especially in establishment of the 27 ICT sites in the remote rural communities, provision of internet access points and capacity building has not been given to all these ICT sites, only 15 ICT sites are currently connected to the internet/intranet. BOSCO Uganda has continued to face the challenges of expanding internet/intranet access to all the established sites due to limited network infrastructure and network equipment to reach out to all the remote project areas in Northern Uganda. Inline with the above mentioned strategic approach to connect all the 27

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ICT sites, this funding will enable BOSCO Uganda to connect 5 point to point relay towers as well as 7 ICT sites (1 in Gulu, 2 in Pader, 2 in Lira and 2 in Kitgum District).

Issues to be resolved;

1. Issues of limited network infrastructure and network equipment to reach out to all the remote project areas in Northern Uganda.

BOSCO Uganda has continued to face the challenges of expanding internet/intranet access to all the established sites due to limited network infrastructure and network equipment to reach out to all the remote project areas in Northern Uganda as we still have 10 ICT & D centers not connected.

2. Issues of large rural geographical project areas with limited access to communication

The area is very vast in size and calls for logistical improvement to managed and monitor yet communication challenges are also a snag. About 90 Percent consist of rural areas with limited or no access to communication infrastructure and information facilities including internet and other modern forms of communication.

3. Issues of Indicators for development

Acholi sub-region indicators for development are still well below the national average, for a place to achieve a minimal level of development there is great need for a very good communication infrastructure. To have a holistic development, more than communication should be added. Thus communication needs to have economic empowerment like startups and education thereof.

4. Improving the availability of internet/intranet by installing solar powered systems.

Activities to be carried out;

1. Procurement of installation equipment
2. Tower Infrastructure Installation and improvement on 5 Towers
3. Establishment of network link between relay towers and testing the links
4. Establishment of network link from relay towers to the 7 ICT Centres, testing and debrief of users at the ICT centres.

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5. Configuration of network graphing and monitoring tools for ICT centres.
6. Monitoring and maintenance of the network links



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Reporting

Project objectives

Overall Objective; To end the digital divides by increasing internet/intranet access to the remote rural communities in Northern Uganda. Project Objectives; To expand BOSCO Uganda solar powered intranet/internet infrastructure to the remote sites in Northern Uganda (7 ICT sites and 5 point to point relay towers) Specific Objective conducting installation of power equipment at 5 point to point relay towers and 1 ICT site without power in the remote communities in Northern Uganda. Conducting installation of network equipment at 5 point to point relay towers and 7 ICT sites in the remote communities in northern Uganda.

Users and uses

Our work could have not gone any better without the lower local government and the community groups that exist at areas where our ICT centres are. The central government and radio station management have provided towers in other places that have helped us to relay BOSCO Uganda's intranet/internet to the built towers or to ICT&D Centres. Other key category of partners in this project are the community members who will use the products of the project namely intranet/internet. Should the community not use this then our project will deemed a failure.

A range of beneficiaries are identified from within the young to the old as well as from the government to individuals. They use the services for various purposes stretching from office use to individual consumption such as information on market prices. The farmers are now able to fetch better prices for their products as they have eliminated the middleman who would provide them low prices. Equally input dealers can be met from the source instead of working with retailers whose prices are higher.

The intervention employs an innovative approach of using information technology for increasing Communication access geared towards peaceful coexistence. BOSCO Uganda has been using ICT to enhance communication especially in rural communities, schools and institutions in Northern Uganda since 2007.

PART 3:

THE PROJECT



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PARAMETERS	INDICATORS How do you measure project progress, linked to your objectives and the information reported on the Implementation and Dissemination sections of this report?	CHECKING SOURCES Where do you find the information to document the indicators	RISKS Identified above	TIMELINE Dates when the listed activity should be developed	ASSESSMENT Assessment indicating how the activity should be conducted
IMPACT <i>Likely or achieved long-term effects</i>	Community able to make decisions based on information access	ICT & D centre records, videos at BOSCO Uganda office and site visits	Sustainability of the centre in terms of paying for internet	End of project	Schedule planned joint movement with donor to the field
OUTCOME <i>Likely or achieved short and medium term effects. Focus on the changes facilitated by the project for its beneficiaries Outcomes tend to be under the influence of the project team but not under direct control Short term: Long term:</i>	Increase in number of people accessing ICT centers Hours of internet running without a break Improvement of social cohesion due being together	Interviews with beneficiaries Physical visit to the ICT & D centre Project progress reports	Community willingness to participate in the project Natural calamities such as lightening do not destroy equipment	Quarterly visits of the project work	Planned visits with project staff and also with senior management of BOSCO Uganda
OUTPUTS <i>Result and/or deliverable produced as a direct result of the project activity Outputs are under direct control of the project team</i>	Equipment purchased. Installations of equipment completed	Progress reports Physical project site visits	Willingness of community to participate	Monthly	

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PROJECT ACTIVITIES <i>Actions taken, work performed</i>	<i>Procurement of installation equipment Tower Infrastructure Installation and improvement on 5 Towers Establishment of network link between relay towers and testing the links Establishment of network link from relay towers to the 7 ICT Centres, testing and debrief of users at the ICT centres. Configuration of network graphing and monitoring tools for ICT centres. Monitoring and maintenance of the network links Reporting</i>	Due to limited staffing the project will use staff from other projects to support Delay of funds release	Weekly activity plans and reports	Weekly	Weekly coordination meetings to support implementation
INPUTS <i>Financial, human and material resources</i>					

Please use the table below to report about project implementation...

Input	Project activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Timeline	Status	Assessment
Financial, human and material resources	Actions taken, work performed I. Procurement	Result and/or deliverable produced as a direct result of the project	Likely or achieved short and medium term effects. Focus on the	Dates were the listed activity was developed	Indicate when the activity started, on-going or completed(describe the status in terms	Assessment indicating how the activity has been conducted

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<p>of installation equipment's.</p> <p>2. Carrying out upgrade and installation of 4 relay Towers.</p> <p>3. Installation and Expansion of network back bone from Gulu to Lira.</p> <p>4. Establishment of network link from relay Towers to 4 remote ICT Centres in the rural community, testing and debriefing users.</p> <p>5. Configuration of Network graphing and monitoring tools for ICT Centres.</p> <p>6. Monitoring and maintenance</p>	<p>activity</p> <p>Outputs are under direct control of the project team</p> <p>1. Project has expanded the BOSCO Uganda Wireless network link from Gulu to Lira.</p> <p>2. The project is providing internet/intranet access to 4 already connected ICT sites out of the 7 sites to be connected.</p> <p>3. The Project is now giving access to the remote communities to air out their voices, share experiences, advertise for their Agricultural products online and also look for other useful Materials on both the internet/intranet.</p> <p>4. Community sites are</p>	<p>changes facilitated by the project for its beneficiaries</p> <p>Outcomes tend to be under the influence of the project team but not under direct control</p> <p>Short term:</p> <p>1. Hours of computer usage at the 4 newly connected ICT sites has increased significantly from the usual 8:00am - 6:00pm daily to 8:00am - 8:00pm sometimes up to 10:00pm daily.</p> <p>2. There has been Increase on the usage of computer and increase on the numbers of users at the 4 newly connected ICT sites since the expansion</p>	<p>1 January- November 2017;</p> <p>Procurement of equipment's for installation of the 4 new connected ICT sites.</p> <p>2. February- October 2017;</p> <p>Installation of power upgrades on the relay tower and connection of 4 ICT sites, configuration and testing.</p> <p>3. April- to date;</p> <p>Configuration of Network graphing and monitoring tools for ICT Centres.</p> <p>4. May-On going;</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation and Report</p>	<p>of percentage)</p> <p>1. The activity started in January 2017 and its on-going awaiting the completion.</p> <p>2. The activity is at 65% overall with Tower power installation up to 90% complete, ICT site connection up to 65% completed, tower point to point expansion is at 60% complete.(4 relay towers out of 5 have been upgraded with power, 4 ICT site out of the 7 have been connected to internet/intranet and 1 point to point expansion from Gulu to Lira was completed and remaining 2 from Pader to Latanya and from Latanya to Kitgum.</p>	<p>Describe technologies implemented, methods and techniques used and any challenges that have been identified</p> <p>1. Procurement was done by calling service providers to submit in their quotations and selection was made based on quality, pricing and durability.</p> <p>2. Tower upgrade has been carried out by replacing all solar panels of low wattage to higher wattage and batteries of low Ah with the ones with high Ah.</p> <p>3. Low power consumption Network switches with more ports</p>
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	of the network links	keeping Daily record of internet/intranet site users. 5. There has been good up time recorded on the newly connected ICT site with up to 250 days.	of internet connectivity to their ICT site. Long term: 1. Online presence has been witnessed from the 4 newly connected ICT site, ICT sites have created their own Facebook page, started posting articles on their Facebook page, liking other partners pages like BOSCO Uganda, Fire Africa and others, they are sharing their activities progress, accessing market prices, reading online newspaper and websites, searching for buyers for their Agricultural produce. 2. There has been improvement on communication between	writing		where deployed to ensure more sites are connected to these towers. 4. Low power Ubiquiti network radios and dishes has been procured and deployed to connect the 4 out of 7 ICT sites and on the link between Gulu-Lira point to point relay towers. 5. Network monitoring tools are being use to check the status of internet stability and availability, graphing the usage as well for example cacti, nagios and Mikrotik router bandwidth graphing tool.
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			<p>BOSCO Uganda and people in the community since in internet they have discovered a cheaper and most comfortable means of communication like Skype and Google hang out where they are able to see the person they are talking to live on the video calls.</p>			<p>6. The major challenges experienced by the team is lightening, strong wind that sometimes blow off the solar panel and challenges of rain which interrupts the team during installation.</p>
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Indicators

Baseline	Indicators	Progress	Assessment	Course of action
<p>Refers to the initial situation when the projects haven't started yet, and the results and effects are not visible over the beneficiary population.</p> <p>1. The power system that has been upgraded at 5 relay towers of the 5 to be upgraded and significantly increased on the Uptime of the network radios on the towers to 24/7 since the upgrade on those relay tower and to the ICT site with the highest registering up to 270 days compared to the time when the upgrade was not carried out where by the network links use to be up only between 1 to 2 days.</p> <p>2. There has been Increase on the usage of computer and increase on the numbers of users at the 4 newly connected ICT sites since the expansion of internet connectivity to their ICT sites and before the expansion, there used to be fewer number of people coming to use computer at the ICT sites.</p> <p>3. Online presence has been witnessed from the 4 newly connected</p>	<p>How do you measure project progress, linked to your objectives and the information reported on the Implementation and Dissemination sections of this report?</p> <p>1. The objective of ending the digital divides by increasing internet/intranet access to the remote rural communities in Northern Uganda has be met in the already connected ICT sites since the community members can now communicate and air out their voices through the internet to the outside world. They can read world news, advertise for their products, write articles and comments on social media posts.</p> <p>2. The 4 relay towers out of the 5 have been upgraded with solar power, this has increase on the up time of the link and making up to 90% of the relay towers to be upgraded.</p>	<p>Refer to how the project has been advancing in achieving the indicator at the moment the report is presented.</p> <p>1. The project has move on well achieving most of its targets, the expansion has taken place between Opit relay towers to Ngetta relay tower in Lira.</p> <p>2. The project has already extended internet/intranet connectivity to 4 remote ICT sites out of the 7 ICT sites to be connected.</p> <p>4. Already 4 relay towers was upgraded with Power out of the 5 relay towers to be upgraded.</p> <p>5. Configuration of Network graphing and monitoring tools for 4 ICT Centres and the point to point links is on-going.</p> <p>6. The users of the project ICT centres are now writing articles, advertising for their agricultural produce, using social media, learning new things exchanging emails and accessing news on the extended internet links.</p> <p>7. Equipment's for</p>	<p>Descriptions should be clear and ideally contain operational terms where needed. Please describe the quality dimensions.</p> <p>1. The upgrade of the 4 relay towers have greatly improved the uptime of the network equipment to 24/7 since the upgrade was done.</p> <p>2. The internet connectivity is now reliable up to 90% reliability for this project expansion.</p> <p>3. The project has improved the community knowledge on information access and communication has been made much easier with the provision of internet to this rural ICT sites.</p> <p>4. The project has improved and prompted community members to carry out research, search for jobs and apply for jobs online.</p>	<p>What is the project team planning to do next is very important to document, especially if changes to the original plan have to be implemented for the success of the project.</p> <p>1. The project team is in the process of procuring more equipment for installing 1 remaining relay tower, procuring power system for ICT site power upgrade, procuring network equipment for expanding internet/intranet connection from Pader Rapa tower to Latanya relay tower and from Latanya relay tower to Kitgum relay tower, procuring network equipment for connecting the 3 remaining ICT sites and to procure installation accessories/materials.</p> <p>2. The project team is in the process of carrying out tower Infrastructure Installation/improvement on 1 remaining relay Towers out of the 5 of the project.</p> <p>3. The project team is in the process of carry out the establishment of</p>

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<p>ICT sites. ICT sites have created their own Facebook page, started posting articles on their Facebook page, liking other partners pages like BOSCO Uganda, Fire Africa and others, they are sharing their activities progress, accessing market prices, reading online newspaper and websites, searching for buyers for their Agricultural produce and before the expansion none of this connected ICT sites had access to internet and social media to post the above activities.</p> <p>4. Hours of computer usage at the 4 newly connected ICT sites has increased significantly from the usual 8:00am - 6:00pm daily to 8:00am - 8:00pm sometimes up to 10:00pm daily, before the expansion of internet the ICT sites use to close by around 6pm.</p>		<p>upgrading 4 relay towers out of the 5 to be upgraded has already been procured and deployed to the sites, Equipment's for expanding BOSCO Uganda network from the relay towers to 4 ICT sites out of the 7 ICT site to be connected has already been procured and deployed to those 4 ICT sites.</p>		<p>network link between the relay Towers and testing the links from Pader to kitgum tower via latanya relay tower.</p> <p>4. The project team bought more 1.5 mbps Internet bundle to be shared by these ICT sites.</p> <p>5. The project team is in the process to carry out establishment of network link from different relay towers to the 3 remaining ICT Centres, testing and debrief users.</p> <p>6. The project team is continuously Configuring network graphing and monitoring tools for various ICT Centres.</p> <p>7. The project team are carrying out Monitoring and maintenance of the network links and documentating/reporting.</p>
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Project outputs, communication and dissemination activities

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Project outputs	Status	Assessment	Dissemination efforts
Output No. 1 (use the same names as per the listed outputs in the table above, see Project implementation)	Please select the option that better describes the status into the development of this output:	Descriptions should be clear and ideally contain operational terms where needed. Please describe the quality dimensions.	Please specify what dissemination efforts were made, with special attention to those intending to reach target groups by gender, age, ethnic and socio-economic profiles to impact marginalized and disadvantaged groups.

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Project outcomes

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Project management and sustainability

The project will try to sustain its self through more community contributions especially with the internet subscription that is provided by BOSCO Uganda. Further, sister projects have trained the community in basic entrepreneurship skills and provided them with start-up capital that should be support with little collections coming from users of the ICT and D Centers. More still, communities are in groups and are trained on basic computer usage and maintenance which should be able to handle

Overall Assessment

The project has met its objectives of ending the digital divides by increasing internet/intranet access to the remote rural communities in Northern Uganda especially in those areas where the project work have been completed already.

The Objective of expanding BOSCO Uganda solar powered intranet/internet infrastructure to the remote sites in Northern Uganda has been met 4 ICT sites out of the 7 have already been connected to the internet and 4 point to point relay towers out of the 5 have their power system and network equipment's upgraded.

Online presence has been witnessed from the 4 newly connected ICT sites. ICT sites have created their own Facebook pages, started posting articles on their Facebook pages, liking other partners pages like BOSCO Uganda, Fire Africa and others, they are sharing their activities progress, accessing market prices, reading online newspaper and websites, school research and assignments by student from the neighboring communities, Online registration of students for National examination, printing of examination papers by nearby schools, searching for buyers for their Agricultural produce.

The use of point to point connectivity has greatly helped in the success of this project since the targeted remote ICT sites have been successfully connected to BOSCO Uganda's internet/intranet. The power upgrade done at the 4 relay towers has tremendously increased on the uptime on the network.

Improvement on the network links has resulted into stable and reliable connection of the remote

There was inadequate funding for BOSCO Uganda's scale up of intranet/internet connectivity to the

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all the rural community ICT sites, since there was only USD25000 available which supported only made 7 out of 32 current community ICT centres managed by BOSCO Uganda in northern Uganda.

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PART 4:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We recommend the strategy of using solar power system to build community networks in rural communities was a better approach since most rural communities are off main power grid, this helps to foster network reliability as witnessed by BOSCO Uganda.
2. We recommend other partners to adopt the use of low powered computer system Like convertible notebook laptops other than the old high powered desktop computer systems.
3. Recommendation to Fire Africa (FIRE secretariat), there is need to disburse implementing partners' funding in time to aid timely implementation of respective projects.
4. Recommendation to Fire Africa (FIRE secretariat), there is need to increase the amount of funding for some implementing partners like BOSCO Uganda had on \$25000 yet the demand for connectivity to more than 7 rural ICT centres.
5. Recommendation to Fire Africa (FIRE secretariat), we recommend that funds disbursement should be in either one or two instalments rather than the three instalments/phases seen in this particular project, since BOSCO Uganda heavily was handling infrastructure improvement it made it very difficult to procure the equipment at once, this made it hard to complete the installation in time. Besides it increases the operational costs of work as it is done in phases.

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PART 5:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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