

Section A

Title of Project:

Empowering Church Youths to access ICT services through Digital Literacy Training.

Summary of Project:

This submission is written in response to a Highlands Regional Workshop conducted here in Western highlands Province by NICTA during the month of August, 2018.

Since Jiwaka is a new Province it has a lot to catch up with the other established Provinces, which is why ICT will become an essential tool in its development in the years to come. This project aims to empower especially Christian Youths within our churches and other known denominations within North Waghi District and Jiwaka Province, in promoting the use of e-mails, face book, and other important electronic methods to improve their livelihoods through small businesses and schools.

One of the key issues is to eradicate illiteracy and the other is to avoid ignorance and misuse of ICT in the young generation.

In line with the National ICT Policy in ensuring equitable access to Information and Communication Technology Services and considering the fact that ICT is seen as a necessary tool for economic growth and social development. It is anticipated that this project will solve or address many problems encountered by youths from school aged children to school leavers in Bans LLG, North Waghi electorate of Jiwaka Province

At the local level we are trying to make sure every Christians have access to ICT services so that what is happening in the towns and city churches can also be accessible in the village settings. Some of our focus areas is to:

1. Encourage Christians to carry electronic bibles
2. Set up use e-mails and face book
3. Set up computer libraries (Google/internet) within the church premises
4. Enter small scale e-businesses

Some of the benefits this project will bring are long lasting and overwhelming. These includes reduced level of crime and poverty, employment opportunities, increased living standard of youths, more self-employment. The beneficiaries are close to 400+

youths in the church and also those from other denominations which is not included. A major objective of this project will definitely alleviate poverty in our youths of today.

Section B

1.0 Objective and Outcome of Proposed Project

There are two main objectives of conducting a Digital Literacy Training Program. Firstly, ICT accessibility to our youths is very poor and many are not accessing it although it is provided within our reach. Secondly, we want our youths to be engaged in SME' s and other income generating activities so we want to train, teach and impart knowledge on how to use ICT services to their advantage whilst being in a remote area.

Furthermore, to help our youths in positively increase usage of ICT services to improve their lives than destroying it. Much of it will help in eradicating poverty, distance, time and energy because of geographical reasons. Others also who are illiterate can have the advantage like educated people.

Our focus is on the youths in the church because they are the ones who are currently the main users of ICT services. Which is why they must be educated properly to improve their livelihoods. Many of our youths are engaged already in activities such as farming, poultry, piggery so we are trying to empower them to use ICT as a tool to grow and advance their SME' s through digital literacy training.

2.0 Benefits of Proposed Project

This ICT project will benefit almost 400+ youths within our churches identified as Reformation Ministries and Churches Network (RMCN). Of this an est. 220 male and 180 female youths will directly benefit. Youths from other denominations will also benefit from this project directly. The scope is big in a sense it covers entire Jiwaka Province and not limited to a particular district or church, but it will be trialled out in our church first before we launch out.

Since social media and ICT is affecting the youths then there may be indirect benefits as well such as alleviating poverty and increasing our living standards, increasing our knowledge content and also helping the youths to live a positive live through the use of ICT services.

3.0 Technical Aspects

Technically speaking, an important problem that has to be rectified in this part of North Waghi and Jiwaka Province is an urgent need of network coverage. We have been in this condition for many years thinking that the nearby towers are covering us. There are about five (5) different tribes with almost seven (7) LLG Ward Councils, and an estimated population of 7000+people affected. This has resulted in many people spending extra money to go to the nearest centre which is Bans Town to do effective communication, because telephone and data signals are very weak for both B-mobile and Digicel.

Therefore, to solve this technical problem I am suggesting that a 30 metre tower can be erected on a nearby hill, which is an ideal location to cover the entire population with a strong network coverage. A parchment of Land has been agreed upon by the landowners because of the dire need for a tower. Moreover, this tower will make our trainings and all the other dreams that we have concerning ICT will come to pass in the near future.

4.0 Cost

	Cost Item	Estimated Amount (K)	Comments/Justification
1	Tower (BTS) set up	K500, 000.00	
2	Hire of Training Venue	K5, 000.00	K500.00 per day x 10 days
3	Hire of Professional ICT Trainers	K9, 000.00	K300 per day x 10 days x 3 ICT officers
4	Food (Refreshment) for training participants	K5, 000.00	K500 per day 10 days

5	Solar set up or hire of back up genset to supply electricity for training	K3, 000.00	K300 per day x 10 days
6	Food & Accommodation for ICT Trainers	K18, 000.00	<u>Food:</u> K200 per day inclusive of breakfast, lunch and dinner x 10 nights x 3 officers <u>Accommodation:</u> K400 per night x 10 nights x 3 officers
7	Hire of vehicle for ICT Trainers	K10, 000.00	K1, 000.00 per day x 10 days
		TOTAL COST = K540, 000.00	

5.0 Sustainability

This project will be sustained through church support grants including submissions to NGO donor agencies and our Provincial Government. A long-term sustainability will be decided to reach not only church youths but those that are outside as well because ICT is here to stay. The project will transform the lives of those ordinary youths in the village so we are looking at ways to make it more interesting and also continuity of it.

6.0 Cross-Cutting Issues

Many sensitive issues are centred around youths of today but in this particular project the focus on using ICT as an important tool is to improve or grow businesses, churches and encouraging youths to positively affect their living standards. Off course issues such as gender equality, HIV-AIDS, Violence Against Women and Children, Child Abuse, Crimes can be addressed as well as systematic poverty in rural areas. Through this project ICT can be powerfully used to help in partnership with police and other important organisations to curb law and order problems and reduce some of those consistent problems within the communities. Youths are sensitive and quick to act and

respond to any situation in the localities so this could be an advantage for them to be actively involved with ICT at their disposal.

7.0 Monitoring & Evaluation

After the intensive digital training the youths will be monitored to see if they are actually into the practice of doing Facebook, e-mails and other important ICT tools taught using the computers and their smartphones. It will be easy to monitor because they are part of the church members. Those youths who are engaged in small scale businesses will be given priority to access e-business, banking and other necessities of ICT services.

That is, youths will be invited to gather at the training centre at least for 2-3 days of every month to demonstrate or practice ICT skills imparted to them. It is also at such a gathering should they be encouraged to share ICT knowledge and skills with fellow members who may be slow to understand or pick up. At least these 2-3 days of every month of the year should include conducting revision or refresher training for youths on a particular ICT application or tool which they may not be proficient in until they all flow well.

Month	ICT application to be taught	Duration for refresher/revision
<i>January</i>	Facebook	1-2 days
<i>February</i>	Messenger	1 day
<i>March</i>	WhatsApp	1 day
<i>April</i>	Share it & C-share	1 day
<i>May</i>	Google search	1 day
<i>June</i>	Chrome	1 day
<i>July</i>	Internet	1 day
<i>August</i>	e-mail	1 day
<i>September</i>	How to operate smart phones	1-2 days
<i>October</i>	How to use tethering & wi-fi	1 day
<i>November</i>	How to download & save information on smart phones	1 day
<i>December</i>	Bluetooth	1 day

