

End of project report for CARE project (Creating Access and Resources through Education)

Reporting period December 2008 – November 2009

Introduction

This project, implemented with funding from The Embassy of Hungary, was mainly aimed at improving accessibility and usage of ICT in the slums community of Kibera. Varied activities were designed and implemented with a view of meeting the set goal with SIDAREC placing greater emphasis on active participation of community members in project design, trainings and outreach activities. The organization also places a high premium on encouraging the social inclusion of the target communities.

There were various achievements as a result of the CARE intervention, key among them being the mobilization of the community members especially the young people in putting up a resource center at the heart of Kibera slums in Lainisaba, Mashimoni area.

The implementation period for the CARE project was from December 2008 to November 2009 and the following activities were implemented:

1. Community ICT centre partitioning

Community members with the facilitation of SIDAREC set up a resource and ICT centre in Mashimoni village in Kibera. The centre is a knowledge hub for the Kibera community and a home to the youth to interact and explore their talents and skills using traditional and modern channels of communication. The computer centre was created after partitioning the community resource centre to create a room for computer training to enable students have a conducive environment for learning away from interruptions.

2. Electricity connection

After the construction of the centre, SIDAREC embarked on installation of electricity, as this is key to the successful implementation of the project. This was a tedious task because of the bureaucracy in the power supply company and the fact that staff from the company feared venturing into the slums to connect us to the power line. The task was successfully completed albeit the hiccups and the centre was finally connected to the electricity supply.

3. Procurement of office equipment, computer hardware and software

After the construction of the centre, SIDAREC procured 7 computers, a photocopy machine, binding and lamination machines and a printer. Procurement also involved purchase of computer tables and chairs.

4. Internet connection

Due to poor landscape in Kibera slums the project has not been able to get an Internet Service Provider who is willing to connect the center with Internet. The project therefore uses mobile phone modems to access Internet, which has been extremely expensive

and not sustainable. We are looking into prospects of erecting a mast that can support wireless connectivity.

5. Computer training

The centre offers computer training and other ICT services to the community and has become a meeting place for the local youth. Apart from creating an informed community, building on community communication channels and documentation of the community's history, culture and identity, the project has facilitated easier and efficient accessibility of vital information to the community members. Within the implementation period, SIDAREC has been able to train 150 young people on basic computer packages. Out of the trained youth 2 have been able to secure sources of income through training other young people in colleges and over 20 were contracted by the government in the last polls on the national referendum on constitution. This was mainly because the electoral body was using electronic voter registration and required people who were computer literate.

During the implementation period, SIDAREC has realized the following successes

- Setting up of a resource and ICT centre in Mashimoni village in Kibera. The Kibera Resource Centre was officially launched in a colourful ceremony attended by the community members, village leaders and other SIDAREC partners.
- SIDAREC has also mobilized a team of 22 local youth volunteers to manage the ICT centre. This group of young people is involved in designing and implementing activities at the centre to enhance community ownership and participation and subsequently enhancing security.
- The project has helped to enhance community ownership of the SIDAREC resource centre making young people entirely responsible for the day-to-day management of the centre.
- 150 young people have undergone computer training and graduated successfully. 2 are already volunteering as an instructor in local colleges.
- The setting up of the ICT centre has enhanced credibility of SIDAREC and positive attitude from community members that enhance project ownership and community participation.
- Over 20 young people were engaged by the electoral commission in the recent constitution referendum as a result of the computer skills acquired in the centre.

Challenges

- Volatility of the slums to violence due to political interference. Kibera is relatively calm but we have experienced instances of violence with a little trigger from political elite. This means that lasting peace has not been realized and that pockets of violence affect the work of development partners.
- There are frequent power blackouts in Kibera making the electricity supply unreliable. This is affecting the computer training at the centre since SIDAREC does not have alternative power backup plan.

Conclusion

The project was successfully completed and SIDAREC would like to thank the Embassy of Hungary for the support they have given the project making information communication technologies (ICTs) a reality within the down trodden and thereby championing for social justice for the poor and the marginalized.