

Rapid Implementation of Samoa Pathway and SDGs through ICT

ICT4SIDS Partnership, Website: www.ict4sids.com

Objectives and Achievements

- The overall objective of ICT4SIDS Partnership is to accelerate the adoption of Samoa Pathway and UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through ICT at local, regional and national levels in SIDS.
- We strongly support the concept of ICT Hubs as stated in the Samoa Pathway Declaration, Section 109, Para h. These hubs are typically supported by a Portal.
- We specifically support the ICT Hubs that address different SDGs and collaborate with each other for high impact. Our hubs support SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 with particular attention to SDG17 (Implementation)
- Our implementation vision is a large number of collaborating ICT Hubs that support SDGs at local, regional and national levels and are managed by a Global ICT4SIDS Center (see Figure1, top diagram)
- The Global Center is located at Harrisburg University and resides on an IBM donated machine. The Global Center, as shown in Figure 1, houses large databases and coordination centers. It also includes planning, administrative, analytics, and training tools that provide central support for the ICT hubs at rural, regional and national levels in SIDS and LDCs. These capabilities are explained on the next page.

ICT 4 SIDS
Small Islands and Developing States

Home Our Vision **Global Center** ICT Hubs Methodology Support Documents Getting Started WHAG

Rural Solar Hub
Rural Users

Regional Hub (Telemedicine, eAgriculture, Education)

National Hub (Disaster Mgmt)

Communications and Collaborations

Computer Aided Consulting & Training

Healthcare Center

Education Center

SDGs Advisor

Smart SIDS

Other Centers

Global ICT4SIDS Center

Administration and Analytics

Global Center

The objective of the Global ICT4SIDS Center is to support the ICT Hubs for rapid adoption of Samoa Pathway and SDGs specifically, we will offer:

- Computer Aided Consulting
- Hands-on Workshops on ICT4SIDS
- Business Intelligence and Analytics Services
- Collaboration support for the network of ICT Hubs

We will offer these services to SIDS and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in Health, Education, Public Safety, Public Welfare and other vital sectors.

Collaboration Matrix
View Details

WHAG – Healthcare Center
View Details

SDGs Advisor
View Details

Education Center
View Details

Smart SIDS
View Details

Computer Aided Planning
View Details

Business Intelligence
View Details

Disaster Recovery Center
Work in progress

The Center operates at the Harrisburg University of Science and Technology and is supported by a Grant from IBM.

Figure1: Screenshot of the ICT4SIDS Global Center (Website: www.ict4sids.com, section: Global Center)

Key Features of the ICT4SIDS Global Center

The Global Center, located at www.ict4sids.com site serves as the “Command and Control Center” for the ICT4SIDS Partnership. This site also serves as a Center for Collaboration between all hubs and provides the following capabilities shown in Figure1:

- *Collaboration Matrix* that supports different collaboration scenarios between different hubs and global centers. For example, telemedicine centers in Samoa and Solomon Island can exchange information with each other and also with a Nursing Education Center located in Aruba.
- *World Hypertension Center* located in Harrisburg can be used to store hypertension data from Haiti and Jamaica for across-country analysis and advice to populations in these islands. This center is being operated by the World Hypertension League and a healthcare NGO (Colleagues in Care).
- *Education Center* is available as the central repository of education and training for capacity building of different regions, especially in ICT. We are currently working with Tanzania to educate school teachers for effective use of computers in classrooms.
- *Smart SIDS* is a new initiative that is using the SDG Advisor and Computer Aided Planning to develop Smart SIDS. We are currently working with Solomon Islands on a Smart Samoa Pilot Project.
- *SDG Advisor* is available to all hubs and the Global Center users for quickly checking the SDG indicator for their regions/countries, receiving recommendations for the services that can improve the needed status, and even launch the needed services through a Computer Aided Planner, discussed below.
- Computer Aided Planner is a very sophisticated toolset, called SPACE, that conducts a feasibility study and produces a strategic plan plus a working portal for a proposed hub.
- *Business Intelligence Center* is a new capability that will be used by any of the hubs for analytics. .
- *Disaster Recovery Center* is currently not operational and is being designed for disaster situations.

Main Challenges and Implementation Methodology Used

Our main challenge is that implementation of the vision of large number of interacting ICT Hubs is a non-trivial task with failure rates up to 80% in developing countries. To address these challenges, we are using the following computer aided methodology (details are available at the ict4sids website - www.ict4sids.com)

- *Phase0*: We invite SIDS to Join a Free Pilot Project that implements ICT Hubs to support health, education, public safety, public welfare, and other SDGs.
- *Phase1*: A Hub vision is proposed and a Pilot Project is initiated by a SIDS and a Point of Contact (POC) is appointed by the target SIDS. This phase formally initiates a pilot project.
- *Phase2*: We first use the SDG Advisor to help the POC determine which SDGs should be addressed and use the SPACE computer aided planning tool that conducts an extensive feasibility study and produces a strategic plan, a funding proposal and a working prototype of the selected Hub(s) – all within a day.
- *Phase3*: The results of the feasibility study are studied/revised and a final hub is created in collaboration with the SIDS POC and local experts. The final hub is “registered” in the Collaboration Matrix and also in the appropriate Center (e.g., a hypertension hub is registered in the World Hypertension Center).

The, main significant advantage of this implementation methodology is that the Free Pilot Projects are 3-6 months long and get the SIDS POCs directly involved in all phases of developing the Hubs and thus develop valuable skills. In addition, the computer aided planning phase (Phase2) is designed to do more (provide more services to more users) with less (less time, money, trained staff and failures).

Main Lessons Learned

- Do not declare victory too early or accept defeat too soon - complex tasks take time and energy
- Repeated use of computer aided planning is extremely valuable because the knowledge gained is fed back into the tool making it gradually more powerful

We have presented our findings and lessons learnt at the UN Infopoverity World Conferences and at the OHRLLS Aruba P3a Conference.