

**ALLIANCE FOR
AFFORDABLE INTERNET**



Enabling Internet Affordability: Highlighting Collaboration Towards Ghana's Universal Access

WELCOME TO
A4AI GHANA COALITION QUARTERLY
MEETING

Accra, Ghana

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Global Vision For WSIS on Internet Access



- Focus of WSIS 2003 & 2005 Agenda to address the inclusiveness of rural citizenry in the communications landscape
- Aimed at achieving the Common Desire and commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge to achieve their full Potential.

Action Line C3: Access to Information and Knowledge

- **C3 d)** Enjoined Governments, and other stakeholders, to collaborate to establish sustainable multi-purpose community public access points, providing affordable or free-of-charge access for their citizens to the various communication resources, notably the Internet.

A4AI goal as an International NGO working towards this goal is firmly rooted here.

Towards Sustainable Development Goal Agenda Set 2015



Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which acknowledges that “the spread of information and communication technology and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress and to develop knowledge societies, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across areas as diverse as medicine and energy”.

WSIS +10 & SDG



- Post WSIS +10 review and subsequently SDG 9.c identifies need to speed up process.
- Calls on global community to significantly increase access to information and communications technology
- Strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020
- Yet A4AI study shows going trend will miss this goal by 22 years = 2042 = worrying
- ITU (facts and figures 2016) study confirms by end 2016, 3.9 billion people - 53% of the world's population would not be using the Internet.

A4AI RESPONSE TO THIS CHALLENGE



- Redefining affordability and setting a new target: “1 for 2” to achieve goal of SDG 9c by 2020.
- Work toward a more ambitious affordability target that will enable access for all income groups — not just the top few.
- A4AI proposes setting and working toward a new affordability target: 1GB of mobile broadband data priced at 2% or less of average monthly income.

Ghana's Position on Affordability Drivers Index 2015/16 Report



- Comm infrastructure =38.92
- Access and Affordability =47.15
- Overall Composite Score =42.84
- Out 51 countries surveyed
Ghana ranks = 9th.
- Ghana has capacity to do better
- Massive Private and Gov't investment

The Universal Access Policy



- GIFEC created to promote access to underserved areas.
- Nearly 3 years ago A4AI met in Accra to brainstorm around Ghana's infrastructure readiness to support affordability
- GIFEC Case Study was central to discussions:- helping to select infrastructure access as thematic area for affordability among three others.
- So what is the local situation?

GIFEC COMMON TELECOM FACILITY



39 Masts Constructed in Various locations (Source GIFEC)



GIFEC Facilitated Common Masts

- Objective to create co-location to reduce CAPEX of operators as to enable ICT access to far flung areas.
- 39 masts built for that purpose (source GIFEC)
- Only 16 being utilized (MTN-7; VF-1;Tigo-2; Kasapa-2; More than one operator 4)
- Total Unutilized = 23
- VSAT hub project underway to attempt to utilize the rest
- Other Innovation: - 51 Solar powered rural telephony sites- on 30m high mast- single tenant?
- What are the gaps here?
- What can A4AI contribute in our relationship to benefit rural areas?.

PROMOTING COMMUNITY ACCESS TO ICT



Community Information Centre (source GIFEC)



Aburi



Begoro

Rural ICT Centres of Learning (CIC)



- Total number established = 194
- Number Operationalised = 161
- Number Active = 97
- ?s to ponder over are:-
- How effective are they being utilized?
- Is there an assessment mechanism for monitoring effectiveness in terms of access and affordability?
- What model of management is in place to ensure that?
- Need for new forms of collaboration with A4AI to help improve access.
- GIFEC a good partner to A4AI to forge innovative collaboration to help support far flung areas.

Mobile Subscription Ghana Aug 2016

(Source NCA)



- Total mobile voice subscription = 36,912,019
- Account for penetration rate of 132.44%
- Mobile Data subscription = 68.62%
- Broadband Wireless Access data was 100,907
- Broadband Internet penetration study sketchy between 14-20%.
Need to revisit research.
- There appears an urban phenomenon in penetration and pricing affordability? Consumer group considering this.
- Rural populace still appear underserved?
- Need for vigorous interventions.
- A4AI Research Study to inform policy and regulatory discussions very relevant.

What to Do Towards Rural Access



- Prioritising public access
- Promote free and subsidised community access to enable connectivity for those that continue to be excluded by the market or are unable to afford the cost to connect
- Re-formulating policies including those with disability and gender focus
- Empowering women key
- Need for evidence based research data key

The Proactive Move to Counter Challenges



- Role of Government:---
- Formulation of Digital Policies,
- Provision of subsidies,
- Provision of tax incentives to Private Sector players (A4AI Taxation Group focussing on this)
- Evolving new and innovative licensing models,
- Examining universal service funds applications and risks associated, etc.



**WE ARE HERE TODAY TO RE-FOCUS ON
MOC & A4AI PARTNERSHIP AIMED AT
ADDRESSING LOCAL CONCERNS ON
AFFORDABILITY: WELCOME ALL**



Join the A4AI-Ghana Coalition

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Thank you!

AND WELCOME TO YOU ALL

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