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Youth Unemployment and Information Technology.

Some Empirical Cases.

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***Youth Unemployment and Information Technology.
Some Empirical Cases.***

by Luca Crudeli[♥]

Abstract

At the start of the new century youth unemployment continues to pervade both developed and developing countries. Over 70 millions young people are unemployed throughout the world according to most recent ILO estimates, most of them are located in Southern, Eastern and Developing countries. In most countries teenagers and young women face the greatest burden of the problem. These trends, however, seem to be challenged by the great number of opportunities that are now offered by new technologies. Information and communication technologies are opening up exciting new career opportunities for young people, both as employees and entrepreneurs. Thousands of new start-up companies are being launched in many countries, both developed and developing ones. For benefits to be realized, however, countries need to expand their investments in infrastructure need for the use of ICT and, above all, in the training and education of young people. The expansion of these investments needs the encouragement of partnerships between local institutions and private donors, in particular through the mean of establishing collaborative local, national and international networks.

The purpose of this paper is simply to offer a brief description of some empirical cases that have been implemented both in developed and developing countries, in the hope they can work as an example for future interventions. All of the cases analysed here have been found by “surfing the net”. In describing each of them a particular attention has been paid to the identification of the target group of the projects as well as if projects involve some sort of partnership. Finally to each project it has been attributed a “Ratio of Interest”, which very roughly focuses on how much each project is youth specific, if it takes place in developing or developed countries and if it is internet specific. Finally all internet addresses are provided as reference.

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* **BridgIT – A Queensland Rural Women’s Network Internet Training Project** - BridgIT offers personalised, basic Internet training to individuals and small groups in rural and remote Queensland by having centrally based trainers living and working in a number of areas across the State. Post training support will be available to trainees and will be teleworked from the trainer's home base. Thus the trainer will offer support via phone, fax and/or email. The support offered by email particularly is deemed an important stage in the trainees learning how to use these technologies efficiently. Among BridgIT goals are:

- Connect rural areas to centres and provide them with adequate technology and knowledge;
- Gather and disseminate information about telecommunications policy, Internet service developments and other local Internet training courses and programs.
- Actively publicise and promote the use of email and Internet via media and community channels;
- Liase with Internet service providers, participants in related initiatives (including other Networking the Nation projects) and others involved in policy implementation at the regional level;

Project is basically addressed to: Rural women

Geographical Collocation: Queensland Australia

Web Page of Project: <http://www.grwn.org.au/contents.html>

Web Page characteristics: Very rich in details. Full of training case studies.

Implemented since: 19/02/1999

Private partners involved: Acer Computer Australia <http://www.acer.com.au>
Telstra <http://telstra.com/>
Apple Computer Australia <http://www.apple.com.au>

Institutions Involved: Networking the Nation - The Commonwealth Government Regional Telecommunication Found
<http://www.dcita.gov.au/rtif.html>

Interest Ratio	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	40% TOTAL
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	

* **Techmobile – Collaborative Effort Brings Technology to Youth and Underserved Communities in Seattle** - The Boys & Girls Clubs of King County will soon know it as the Techmobile, a travelling lab that will hit the road in about two weeks to provide computer access to children aged 6 to 18 who live in King County communities underserved by technology. The project is a collaborative effort among Microsoft and other technology companies, the City of Seattle, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, in response to the digital divide that has been created between those communities that have access to technology and those that don't. The Techmobile will stop at public-housing developments, community centres, schools and rural areas where no technology programs for young people exist. Twelve young people at a time are able to participate, at no charge. The Techmobile offers comprehensive classes in the basics of Microsoft Office 2000, Encarta 2000, the World Wide Web and various multimedia technologies. The classes will provide job-readiness skills, basic skills in math and spelling, homework assistance and training in desktop publishing. Sample learning projects include personal and club Web site development and various online research projects.

Project is basically addressed to: Kids aged 6 to 18 in rural areas

Geographical Collocation: King County USA

Web Page of Project: <http://www.microsoft.com/PressPass/features/2000/05-15techmobile.asp>

Web Page characteristics: Not very detailed. Commercially-oriented.

Implemented since: 15/05/2000

Private partners involved: Microsoft <http://www.microsoft.com>
 Boys & Girls Clubs of America <http://www.bgca.org>
 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
<http://www.gatesfoundations.org/default.htm>

Institutions Involved: The city of Seattle <http://www.cityofseattle.net/>

Interest Ratio	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	60% TOTAL
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	

* **African Summer Youth Technology Forum** – This is a basics course for the socially and economically deprived. However, over time, this course can be elevated to a higher-level status. The major goal of the course is to complete the learning continuum for IT. While originally designed for elementary-aged students, it must be emphasized that all segments of society should be introduced into the information age. Some of the levels of the desired outcomes of this course range from something as simple as acquiring the ability to locate answers to queries on the World Wide Web, to the discovery of creative potentials of the participants. It should also provide the participants an opportunity to share and develop newer ideas that create a learning continuum. Questions can be answered either at school or at home because participants can ultimately engage from anywhere and at any time. Furthermore, parents and teachers of the student can become beneficiaries of the classes. As the project grows another level of desired outcome could be the unleashing of creative works in different disciplines, which may interest the participants. Such creative work might include showing participant's abilities at operating and manipulating technology and "live" performance at the same time. The proposal is consistent with the mission of the Ohio State University - to provide education and research, and public services. It provides a mechanism for extending competency programs to other non-Ohio State University affiliated sub- populations. Above all, it is consistent with the Mission of University Technology Services, and falls directly under the "Special Projects and Events" area.

Among the objectives of programme are:

- To improve upon the Computer Literacy of the socially and economically deprived;
- To impart some special computer skill/techniques to such groups, such as e-mail messaging; students will acquire general knowledge and internet navigational skills, as well as efficient ways to access and search the World Wide Web; learning to use special software tools such as word processing, presentation software, and spreadsheets;
- To learn how to create simple web sites;
- To inspire the need to acquire knowledge especially through higher education
- To link children, teachers, and parents around the world

Project is basically addressed to: Socially and economically deprived
Geographical Collocation: Ohio, as well as other countries hosting OSU affiliates
Web Page of Project: <http://www.osu.edu/org/awognet/Events/2000/YouthCamp2000.html>
Web Page characteristics: Not very clear what this project has to do with the *African Women Global Network*.
Related Sites: *African Women Global Network*.
<http://www.osu.edu/org/awognet/>
Implemented since: July 2000
Private partners involved: None
Institutions Involved: Ohio State University www.osu.edu
African Women Global Network.
<http://www.osu.edu/org/awognet/>

Interest Ratio	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	80% TOTAL
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	

* **UNiTY – Unisys Technology Youth** - Each year, 16 participants from the Miami Museum of Science's youth programs and the local community are chosen to participate in a 24-week technology immersion experience. Students create web pages based on Science, Math, Peer issues and Technology. You can even find some of them acting as docents in the museum's CyberCity gallery. UniTY 1 represents the introductory portion and UniTY 2 represents the advanced portion of the UniTY program. UniTY 1 represents the introductory portion of the UniTY program. It serves as a platform from which the museum's youth can springboard themselves into the world of technology. The following participants learned basic web design coupled with Internet research. They were then allowed to express their thoughts and demonstrate their talents by creating a web resource on a topic or issue of their choice. The issues reflect subject matter that each participant feels would be most valuable if conveyed to an audience of their peers. UniTY 2 represents the advanced portion of the UniTY program. It is from within this academy that the museum's youth hone their skills in web page design. Youth in the UniTY 2 section compose web pages solely through the practice and implementation of html. Youth become familiar, encouraged, and accustomed to using only the latest innovations in html in their web publishing and are expected to present a finished product at the end of their 12 week training period. You can find many of their latest masterpieces at our Ecolinks page. In addition, they were also allowed to express their thoughts and demonstrate their talents by creating a web resource on a topic or issue of their choice. The issues reflect subject matter that each participant feels would be most valuable if conveyed to an audience of their peers.

Project is basically addressed to: Rural women

Geographical Collocation: Miami USA

Web Page of Project: <http://www.miamisci.org/youth/unity/index.html>

Web Page characteristics: Poor Details and no project objectives

Implemented since: n.g.

Private partners involved: Unisys Corporation <http://www.unisys.com/>

Institutions Involved: Miami Museum of Science <http://www.miamisci.org/>
Science Learning Network www.sln.org

Interest Ratio	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	40% TOTAL
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	

* **InfoLink – Using Information Technology to Link Youth and Workforce Development, Private Enterprise, Community Revitalization, and Graduate University Outreach with 21st Century Opportunities** - The InfoLink Program is a unique initiative that links low-income youth, businesses, public school districts, and community revitalization efforts through a new learning system that emphasizes information technology and professional development. Housed at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, InfoLink is an intense summer-long technology-training program for underprivileged, urban high school juniors and seniors. Over the course of 14 weeks, the students are given the opportunity to learn an advanced set of software, participate in technology-integrated group projects, and also apply their new skills in paid internships with local high technology and technology using firms. The end result is that the participating students graduate from the program with valuable job skills, experience working in team or group environments, exposure to professional environments and income, and a better understanding of the information technology field as well as their own capabilities and potential for growth. Local businesses are infused with timely, skilled workers. Community organizations receive needed technology-based products and systems they could not otherwise afford via the student's team projects. And the coordinating high schools create new opportunities for their students through this unique learning experience. The project is based on the fact that urban and low-income youth in the U.S. have the highest barriers to obtaining educations and jobs in higher paying, technology-related fields.

Project is basically addressed to: Underprivileged youth
Geographical Collocation: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA
Web Page of Project: <http://www.gis.heinz.cmu.edu/infolink/>
Web Page characteristics: Very rich in details.
Implemented since: summer 1995

Private partners involved: The Grable Foundation <http://www.grable.org/>
The Heinz Endowments <http://www.heinz.org/>

Institutions Involved: The H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management <http://www.heinz.cmu.edu/>
The Carnegie Mellon University <http://www.cmu.edu/>

Interest Ratio	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	60% TOTAL
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	

* **New Millennium Computer Literacy Project – Ghana** - The goal of the New Millennium Computer Literacy Project is two fold. Primarily it provides both West African Senior Secondary School students and professional teachers computer training and access. This is accomplished via the WaSec Computer Club (WCC). The training focuses on building basic computer literacy skills (physical components, mouse usage, file management, etc.) and forming a solid foundation on which the students can further their computer skills. The second goal of the NMCLP is to train Ghanaians in basic computer literacy instruction. Just as, or maybe more, important to fostering individual computer skills is passing on acquired knowledge. Ghana still lacks the necessary technological resource personnel. Therefore, the NMVCLP is promoting "Training of Trainers." The New Millennium Computer Literacy Project is the result of combined efforts from West African Senior Secondary School, Ghana Education Service, Upper West Commerce Association, Peace Corps, Wake Forest University, Federal Express, and countless individuals on both sides of the Atlantic. Through these efforts, the WaSec Computer Club has already trained 50+ Ghanaians in fundamental computer skills in the club's one-year history.

- Project is basically addressed to:** Youth Ghanaians
- Geographical Collocation:** Ghana Africa
- Web Page of Project:** <http://www.wfu.edu/~luceb/>
- Web Page characteristics:** Very rich in details, but not well organized.
- Implemented since:** Not provided. Surely later than 1997

- Private partners involved:** FedEx International delivery company <http://www.fedex.com/>
The Upper West Commerce Association

- Institutions Involved:** Wake Forest University <http://www.wfu.edu>

PS. Interestingly many private citizens are cited as donors in the web page.

Interest Ratio	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	80% TOTAL
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	

*** Acacia – The Acacia Initiative** - Acacia will test the proposition that ICTs can also have significant transformational effects in the developing world. By utilizing ICTs to their own ends, disadvantaged communities in Africa may be able to shift some of the decision-making away from metropolitan centres and international development organizations towards the places where development challenges are faced most acutely. Acacia has been designed and is being led by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC). IDRC is a Canadian public corporation, created in 1970 to strengthen research and information capacities in the developing world, and to assist developing countries in addressing their own problems more effectively. IDRC's experience and competencies reinforce its reputation as an organization that has responded to global development problems. Over its 25-year history, IDRC has made significant investments in research, capacity building, and information and communication throughout the developing world. In fact, the Centre was among the pioneers in the adaptation and use of ICTs in Africa, and Acacia will build on IDRC's existing and emerging networks, programs, and partnerships. One key partnership is with the African Information Society Initiative (AISI), which unites African governments and donors in a framework to extend the use of information, communication, and related technologies for development. Led by the UN Economic Commission for Africa, AISI provides a uniquely African perspective on the opportunities and challenges of that continent in an emerging information age. Acacia can be seen as a Canadian contribution towards helping sub-Saharan Africa meet the objectives of AISI. Acacia works mainly with rural and disadvantaged communities, and particularly their women and youth groups. Often these communities find themselves isolated from the ICT networks to which their urban counterparts increasingly have access. Yet at the same time these communities demonstrate enormous creativity and enterprise living in an environment with little in the way of services and information. With Acacia, IDRC intends to support this creativity and enterprise by demonstrating the benefits of a local capacity to use information and communication in solving local development problems. By sharing information and communicating among themselves and with others, these communities can hopefully remove certain barriers to development and speed up its progress.

Acacia aims to achieve three mutually reinforcing objectives that combine to promote equitable, sustainable, and self-directed development among disadvantaged and rural communities in sub-Saharan Africa:

- (1) To discover and demonstrate how disadvantaged sub-Saharan African communities, especially their women and youth, can use information and communication in solving local development problems;
- (2) To learn from Acacia's research and experience and to disseminate this knowledge widely;
- (3) To foster international interest and involvement in using ICTs to support rural and disadvantaged community development, thereby increasing community access to information and communication.

Specific outputs from Acacia will be:

- Creation of local Telecentres to provide 'connectivity' within rural African communities;
- Pilot projects which test different approaches to providing community ICT access;
- Models showing how ICTs can be used to extend the reach of community voices in local planning and in all levels of governance;
- On-the-ground applications at community sites to meet health, education, natural resources management, and other local development needs;
- Technology (software, hardware and content) adapted for use in rural and disadvantaged communities;
- Innovative infrastructure which extends networks at low cost;
- Research into making ICT policy, regulation, and practice more friendly to those who are currently disenfranchised;
- New forms of partnerships in development assistance;
- And more effective utilization of research results by communities.

Project is basically addressed to: Youths in African Developing Countries
Geographical Collocation: Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda
Web Page of Project: <http://www.idrc.ca/acacia/focus.htm>
Web Page characteristics: Very rich in details and well done. With explanation of specific action activities
Implemented since: 1998
Private partners involved: Acacia has involved many partners in its projects, both from the institutional and private sector. For details check this page: <http://www.idrc.ca/acacia/year1rpt/chpt6.html>
Institutions Involved: Acacia has involved many partners in its projects, both from the institutional and private sector. For details check this page: <http://www.idrc.ca/acacia/year1rpt/chpt6.html>

Interest Ratio	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	100%
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	TOTAL

*** The GT-Web work group - CDI/Community Work Group** –The GT-Web work group is a project of the *Committee for democracy in Information Technology* (a Brazilian NGO) that seeks to enable community youth to enter the job market. GT-Web consists of eight young people from some Brazilian communities including Rocinha, Santa Marta and Santa Rita who meet weekly at the CDI information technology centre in order to learn website design. Participants undergo a selection procedure that seeks those with high levels of creativity, enthusiasm and professionalism. GT-Web has been up and running for three months. During this time, students have been trained in HTML and other professional software packages including Photoshop, Dreamweaver and Home-Site. The group is about to launch a website containing detailed information about each participant, their communities, a client list and a series of links to sites with a social focus. The site will also serve as a means by which potential clients can commission the group’s services. The project has already born fruit for its participants. Through a first-time partnership with StarMedia, five group members are interning at Cadê/Aqui (StarMedia companies). Another two members are interning with the Mantel group (I-Best, M-Lab). The internship program complements the group’s work by putting participants in contact with some of Brazil’s top IT professionals. The Committee to Democratise Information Technology (CDI) is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that promotes educational and vocational training programs (Computer Science and Citizenship Schools). Its mission is to reintegrate the members of the poor communities, principally children and young people, and alleviate the social exclusion they are subjected to in Brazil and throughout the world. In addition to developing pioneer work in bringing information technology to the underprivileged populations, CDI promotes citizenship, literacy, ecology, health, human rights and non-violence, through information technology.

- Project is basically addressed to:** Underprivileged youth in developing countries
Geographical Collocation: Brazil and other developing countries
Web Page of Project: http://www.cdi.org.br/inst/eng/eng_projetos_gru.htm
Web Page of the NGO: <http://www.cdi.org.br/>
Web Page characteristics: Very interesting. The aims of this NGO collide at 100% with what we are looking for
Implemented since: NGO exists since 1995
Private partners involved: At least 9 philanthropic organizations
 14 corporate partnerships
 4 partnerships with NGOs
 4 partnerships with several associations
Institutions Involved: 2 partnerships with educational institutions
 3 governmental partnerships
 One partnership with UNESCO

For a COMPLETE LIST of all the organizations and institutions involved please go to
http://www.cdi.org.br/inst/eng/eng_parcerias.htm

Interest Ratio	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	100% TOTAL
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	

* **The Village Phone (VP) programme** – The Village Phone programme established by Grameen Telecom provides an opportunity for universal access: according to Grameen Telecom, a person may not own a telephone but he/she should have access to a telephone within a ten-minute walk. Combining the Grameen Bank’s expertise in village-based micro-enterprise and micro-credit with the latest digital wireless technology developed the Village Phone initiative. Grameen Telecom's Village Phone pilot project currently involves 950 Village Phones providing telephone access to more than 65,000 people. Village women access micro-credit to acquire digital GSM cellular phones and subsequently re-sell phone calls and phone services within their villages. Grameen Telecom staff has announced that when its programme is complete, 40,000 Village Phone operators will be employed for a combined net income of \$24 million USD per annum. Grameen Telecom (GTC) is a non-profit organization that forms part of the Grameen Bank family of organizations, and it focuses exclusively on the deployment of the Village Phone programme in rural parts of Bangladesh. Grameen Phone is responsible for the network operation as well as urban telephone connections. Grameen Telecom will concentrate in the villages with two kinds of products for rural people:

- (1) Village Pay Phone (VPP): This initiative will provide modern telecommunication services to millions of the poorest people of the world. The aim is to finance village pay phones through selected member borrowers of Grameen Bank. The selected members will purchase the phone (under the lease program of the Grameen Bank) and make the telephone available to all users in the village, undertake short message services and enable others to receive incoming calls. At a later stage, telefax, e-mail and other value added services will be introduced. VPP is likely to become the largest wireless pay phone project in the world.
- (2) Direct Subscriber (DS): There are many potential sources of demand for telephone service in the rural areas that are not directly engaged with Grameen Bank activities; these include health centres, secondary schools and colleges, large farmers, and local businessmen. They will be the direct subscribers of Grameen Telecom. Telecom links to rural markets will promote trade through improved price information, and students of rural schools will be introduced to the information age even before they have ever stepped out of the immediate neighbourhood of their village.

Grameen Telecom, together with the landing program of Grameen Bank, stands to become a vital weapon in the battle against poverty. By March 1997, Grameen Phone plans to become operational. Thereafter, expansion will be rapid. By December 1997, Telephone service should reach about 150 villages.

Project is basically addressed to: Underprivileged rural women of Bangladesh
Geographical Collocation: Bangladesh
Web Page of Project: <http://www.grameen.org/> (choose “telecom”)
Web Page of the NGO: <http://www.grameen.org/>
Web Page characteristics: Very interesting. But a better explanation of the Project is offered by the TeleCommons Development Group (Canada) at this page: <http://www.telecommons.com/villagephone/section1.html#1.1>

Implemented since: Operating since 26 March 1997

Partners involved: Almost the whole Grameen family

Institutions Involved: None

Interest Ratio	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	60% TOTAL
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	

* **Grameen Communications** a newly established not-for-profit company. The company aims to increase awareness and promote the use of international data available on the INTERNET for improving education, research, social, health & sanitation in Bangladesh. To do this, Grameen Communications is going to organize regular seminars, workshops, training programs and projects utilizing the Internet both at the premises of Grameen Communications and at the client sites. Grameen Communications started also providing affordably priced services to such clientele. Educational, research, social, non-government and government institutes will be able to exchange academic, statistical and research information among themselves in large volume at a reasonable cost. Grameen Communications (GC) has two aspects - GC will be in the nature of a pilot project for capacity building exercise and will aim at meeting the Bank's internal needs and the launching of a fully operating Internet Service with commercial capacity, serving the public at large. Internet equipment, training, workshop and consultancy of GC is supported by the Canadian International Development Research Centre.

Project is basically addressed to: Rural people
Geographical Collocation: Bangladesh
Web Page of Project: <http://www.grameen.org/> (choose “communications”)
Web Page characteristics: Not very detailed yet. The project definition is still in progress
Implemented since: not implemented yet
Partners involved: Almost the whole Grameen family
Institutions Involved: International Development Research Centre
<http://www.idrc.org.sg/>

Interest Ratio	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	80% TOTAL
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	

* **Little Horus** – Little Hours was launched by RITSEC (The Regional Information Technology and Software Engineering Center). Its aim is "Investment in Our Future to prepare Arab and Egyptian children for the next millennium". Within the framework of this initiative, several activities have been implemented. The Cyber Cafe is the most interesting one. It consists is an IT empowered library, focusing on the population under the age of 20. In less than two months, 40 centres have been established, where more than 4000 children have been enrolled for the summer program, thus enabling the children to be exposed to the Global environment. The Little Hours web site is the first Egyptian web site for children. It has succeeded in creating circles of knowledge between children around the world, breaking down the barriers of distance, nationality and all other existing differences. During the two years of operation of Little Hours project more than 40,000 kid and young adult had the chance to use the computers and explore the Cyber world. Also, more than 1000 programs and 24,000 training hours were offered. The club services had reach the real grass roots, the kids at the villages, and gave them the avenues to participate among other kids from different part of the world in international programs. The differences among social classes were eliminated when it comes to ICT education & Internet access. The Regional Information Technology and Software Engineering Centre (RITSEC), was established in January 1992, as a joint project between the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD); and is hosted by the Government of Egypt-the Cabinet Information and Decision Support Centre (IDSC). Located in Cairo, and created as a regional, non-profit organization, RITSEC provides technical, professional and developmental services to the agencies, institutions and governmental organizations in the Arab Region.

Project is basically addressed to: Youth and children
Geographical Collocation: Egypt
Web Page of Project: <http://www.horus.ics.org.eg/> but from a descriptive point of view the following sites is more interesting:
http://www.iicd.org/base/show_story?id=3900
http://www.ritsec.com.eg/html/little_horus.html
Web Page characteristics: Very poor in details and information
Implemented since: 1997
Partners involved: Unspecified: “*number of international organizations*”
Institutions Involved: Regional Information Technology and Software Engineering Centre <http://www.ritsec.org.eg/>

Interest Ratio	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	60% TOTAL
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	

* **Community Learning Centres (CLCs) for Skill Building – The Example of Ghana, Benin and Paraguay** - For many forward looking young people throughout the developing world access to computers remains elusive despite the importance of 21st century technology for individual and national development. Students of all ages who seek opportunities to participate in the computer age are among the “early adopters,” those who could one day teach and lead others. A partial yet promising solution to the problem may be the Community Learning Centres (CLCs) that are launching worldwide to provide public access to information and communication technologies (ICTs). Three cases in point, two in West Africa (Ghana and Benin) and one in South America (Paraguay), illustrate design and implementation elements that are proving effective for both the CLCs and their clients. Each case presents some particular features, but it’s not hard to identify some common elements, which look very interesting.

- (a) The purpose of the centres is to empower individuals and organizations for local development by providing public access particularly for low-income populations to the Internet and other ICTs.
- (b) In just a little over two years, the centres grew from small, relatively obscure offices to popular establishments with their waiting rooms filled.
- (c) In most of the centres training opportunities in typing, word processing, spreadsheets, computer literacy, and Internet orientation are offered in addition to simple access to computer equipment.
- (d) Trainees include students, teachers, and researchers as well as business people, staff from NGOs, medical practitioners, artisans, merchants, local officials, and telecommunications workers. Ranging in age from eight to sixty-seven.
- (e) Female enrolment to the centres has been growing steadily since their implementations.

All of the CLCs are supported by a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented through the LearnLink project, administered by the Academy for Educational Development (AED).

Project is basically addressed to: Rural people, mostly youths
Geographical Collocation: Ghana, Benin and Paraguay

Web Page of Project:

Ghana: <http://www.members.tripod.com/cedepghana/>
 Further info: <http://www.aed.org/learnlink/countrypapers/ghana/ghana1.htm>
Benin: <http://www.songhai.org/>
 Further info: <http://www.aed.org/learnlink/countrypapers/benin/benin1.htm>

General web of the project: <http://www.aed.org/learnlink>

Web Page characteristics: Very rich, but a better description of the Ghana and Benin projects may be found in an article published in TechKnowLogia by Mary Fontaine. Web page:

http://www.techknowlogia.org/TKL_active_pages2/CurrentArticles/main.asp?FileType=HTML&ArticleID=146

Implemented since: n.g.
Private partners involved: Academy for Educational Development www.aed.org
Institutions Involved: U.S. Agency for International Development <http://www.usaid.gov/>

Interest Ratio	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	80% TOTAL
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	

* **Nortel Phumelela Networks** – Nortel Networks is a global leader in telephony, data, wireless, and wire line solutions for the Internet. Nortel Network South Africa has identified the need to promote the use of Information and Communication Technologies in previously disadvantaged communities in South Africa and is managing a project of aid to bring technology closer to these communities to instil interest in developing these skills. Although the project is particularly focused on schools and on improving formal education with the use of new technologies, it will bring training and Internet access also to the community at large. The “Phumelela Networks” project (phumelela meaning “to be successful”) will entail the establishment of three provincial hub sites in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Gauteng provinces. The partnerships involved provide the possibility of extending the project to other provinces in South Africa. These hub sites will consist of networked computers and telecommunications infrastructure in a community access facility, servicing schools and the community at large. SchoolNet SA will make appropriate educational support and training available at these hub sites to ensure that educators and learners use technology and the Internet in particular, as a teaching and learning resource. This includes the training of dedicated technical interns at each site. SchoolNet SA is an organisation formed by a partnership with four national government departments with key stakes in the country's education and training system, the school networking, NGO and donor communities. The project provides for the development of partnerships with the local community, ensuring a sustainable project.

Project is basically addressed to: Rural communities
Geographical Collocation: South Africa
Web Page of Project: <http://www.school.za/projects/nortel/index.htm>
Web Page characteristics: Very poor of information.
Implemented since: n.g.
Private partners involved: Nortel Networks www.nortel.com
Institutions Involved: SchoolNet SA www.school.za

Interest Ratio	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	40% TOTAL
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	

* **InfoDev programme (www.infodev.org)** - The Information for Development Program (InfoDev) began in September 1995 with the objective of addressing the obstacles facing developing countries in an increasingly information-driven world economy. It is a global grant program managed by the World Bank to promote innovative projects on the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for economic and social development, with a special emphasis on the needs of the poor in developing countries. A full list of similar programs can be found in InfoDev's web site at page <http://www.infodev.org/about/other.htm>.

InfoDev's key method of intervention is through specific activities in the following areas: (a) Consensus Building; (b) Information Infrastructure Development Strategies including Knowledge Assessments; (c) Telecommunications Reform and Market access; (d) Demonstration Projects; In this last category of activities it's not difficult to find some very interesting projects which come out from partnerships with local institutions and private donors. Two of these follow here.

* **Computer Skills Training for Low-Income Women in India** – The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research together with InfoDev have created a computer skills training program targeted at low-income women in India. This project proposes to demonstrate a cost-effective, high-quality model that will help fulfil the need for women professionals. The target group size during the initial phase has been 250 students from each of two geographical regions: Kerala and Karnataka. At the end of the course, successful students have been given a certificate and they have been placed in organizations that would in turn pay back into the system. The instructional design provides for creating multimedia kits (audio, video, book and disk) that is made available to students fortnightly. As a further development the video segments will be telecast over the popular TV Channels in India in order to seek sponsorships that will go towards sustaining the program on a continuing basis. The long-term objective is to make the project self-sustaining after pilot phase. At the moment a nominal fee (way below existing market rates for similar courses) is charged to cover the cost of course material. However, to help the weaker sections of society to access this program, 50% of the students receive scholarships.

Project is basically addressed to: Low-income women

Geographical Collocation: India

Web Page of Project: Unfortunately no web page for this programme is Available. The only information I could find are at the InfoDev web page:

<http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/infodev/infodev.nsf/OurFunded?OpenView>

Implemented since: Granted on 6/11/99

Institutions Involved: JNCASR (Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific) <http://www.jncasr.ac.in/>

Interest Ratio	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	60% TOTAL
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	

* **InfoNet C@ffé** - The InfoNet C@ffé is a gathering place for local community people to access the Internet, meet together, discuss issues of the day, and interact with others around the world. The pilot phase initiated up six cafe's in 1997, located in developing nations and operated by a consortium of youth non-governmental organizations who are working on sustainable development projects in their country. Each Info(rmation) Cafe is operated by young people to benefit their community at large. The Info(rmation) Cafe provides a host of community services as well as a gathering place for young people committed to building a community for the common good. The focus of each Cafe is: - disseminating information about sustainable development practices, - training for local community people, - providing access at affordable rates, and - promoting information technology to the general population. Rescue Mission Planet Earth operates an international coalition of youth non-governmental organizations (NGO), which develop and promote coalition-building among and between youth organizations working on environmental, economic, or social issues at the local, national and international levels. Info(rmation) Cafe gives young people both economic incentives as well as technological skills to meet the challenges of the future now. The project works with funds from infoDev and support from partner organizations.

Project is basically addressed to: Youth
Geographical Collocation: Global
Web Page of Project: <http://www.infocaffe.net/>
Web Page characteristics: Nice but still in progress
Implemented since: 1997

Private partners involved: The Foundation for the Future of Youth
<http://www.shs.net/rescue/Foundation/found.htm>

Institutions Involved: World Bank InfoDev programme
<http://www.infodev.org>

Interest Ratio	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	100%
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	TOTAL

* **Computer and Telecommunications Skills Centre (CTSC)** - The Computer and Telecommunications Skills Centre (CTSC) is a project by “Women’s Economic Agenda Project” (WEAP) NGO focused on bringing low-income people into the centre of electronic progress with technological know how. The Women's Economic Agenda Project is a 17 year old, community-based nonprofits organization based in Oakland, California, led by low-income women of colour. It was established to empower poor women to assume leadership and work for economic justice. The Centre will provide access for small, women and minority-owned businesses to high-tech equipment and applications and will produce literature, graphics, reports and manuals for WEAP staff and consultants. The computer-training program offers basic, intermediate, and advanced computer training to prepare low-income women and minorities for good paying jobs and for advancement to better positions. The curriculum is planned for flexibility to meet the varied needs of trainees. Trainees will the training project through several avenues:

- Public and private contracts to train unemployed women and youth;
- Grants from private foundations to train high-risk youth and women;
- Contracts with corporations, local businesses and public entities to upgrade computer skills of their employees;
- Collaborations with schools and other educationally based institutions;
- Individuals who want to upgrade their skills with one-time or short-term classes.

Project is basically addressed to: Low-income people

Geographical Collocation: Oakland USA

Web Page of Project: <http://www.weap.org/lab.html>

Web Page characteristics: Very rich in details

Implemented since: n.g.

Partners involved: There are no partners involved.

Interest Ratio	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	40% TOTAL
	<i>Youth Programme</i>	<i>Unemployment, social deprive are Targets</i>	<i>Developing Countries</i>	<i>Connecting Rural Communities</i>	<i>Internet Specific</i>	

* **The ICT Stories Project** is an interesting web page that we should keep an eye on. The project is committed to gathering stories and to disseminating project experience to the entire ICT community in varied forms, including the Web, print, and real-life presentations. One way to do this is through recognizing the best of the Stories submitted and inviting them to an event where they can present their stories in person. The web page of the project contains thousand of successful stories some of them interesting other not. Although the interesting ones I found (at 29 August 2000) are listed here, there could easily appear some new in the next future.

Web Page of Project: http://www.iicd.org/base/stories_overview

* **TechKnowLogia** is an international online journal that provides policy makers, strategists, practitioners and technologists at the local, national and global levels. Particularly interesting are two stated aims of TechKnowLogia:

1. Explore the vital role of different information technologies (print, audio, visual and digital) in the development of human and knowledge capital;
2. Share policies, strategies, experiences and tools in harnessing technologies for knowledge dissemination, effective learning, and efficient education services;

In order to be allowed to read the papers and articles published by the review you firstly need to subscribe, but subscription is free.

Web Page: <http://www.techknowlogia.org/>

* **Brill's Content article** –There's an interesting article by Austin Bunn on youth and new technology in the July/August edition of Brill's Content. The title is "The Rise of the Teen guru". A full version of the article can be read at

http://www.brillscontent.com/August2000/bunn_guru.html