ICT for Hinterland, Poor and Remote Communities Project

Project Number: 00094518

Annual Report 2018

Construction of ICT Hub Facility, Kimbia (Region 10)

Project Summary	Project Duration: 5 Years (December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2022)
	Project Budget: US$17,030,752
	Cumulative Expenditure: US$606,339.00
	Name of Project Manager: Mr. Phillip Walcott
	Name of Supervisor (Permanent Secretary): Mr. Derick Cummings
	UNDP Resident Representative a.i.: Mr. Luca Renda
Responsible/Implementing Agency: Ministry of Public Telecommunications	

1.0   Background

Fostering sustainable development in the Hinterland regions is one of the core priority outcomes of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). A key component in achieving such outcome is the provision of public services and information via the deployment and use of new Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs). The Government of Guyana, working closely with UNDP, has already completed a comprehensive baseline and needs assessment study for Hinterland, Poor and Remote Communities (HPRCs). The study, which included field visits and direct interaction with target communities, has provided deep insights on the core issues such communities are facing and suggested both technologies and business models that could help bring and sustain the services and information that these communities lack at this very moment. While ICTs play a central role in the process, the ultimate goal of the project is to enhance the sustainable human development of HPRCs while promoting the development of a national green economy. That is, project is intended to modernise the public sector through the strategic deployment of new technologies to foster the delivery of public services to all.

2.0   Outputs and Targets

 The key Outputs and Targets under the ICT for HPRCs Project are captured in the following table:

Outputs	Targets
Output 1: *E-government policy environment and legislation strengthened*	**Year 1** • Baseline and needs assessment study • Government ICT mapping study • Capacity assessment of eGovernment Agency • e-government strategy and implementation roadmap **Year 2** • Government Interoperability policy • Broadband strategy • Cybersecurity policy • Open source policy • Other relevant policies on data protection, privacy, e-commerce, etc. **Years 4 & 5** • Revision of existing policies to update as needed, adapt to changing context
Output 2: *HPR communities (HPRCs) access to ICTs in place*	**Indicator 1:** *Year 1*: 25% of people in HPRCs with ICT access *Year 2*: 50% of people in HPRCs with ICT access, disaggregated by age and gender *Year 3*: 75% of people in HPRCs with ICT access, disaggregated by age and gender

Outputs	Targets
	Year 4: 85% of people in HPRCs with ICT access, disaggregated by age and gender *Year 5*: At least 90% of people in HPRCs with ICT access, disaggregated by age and gender Indicator 2: *Year 1*: 20 ICT hubs deployed *Year 2*: 70 ICT hubs deployed *Year 3*: 130 ICT hubs deployed *Year 4*: 170 ICT hubs deployed *Year 5*: At least 200 ICT hubs deployed
Output 3: *Public e-services and information readily available to HPRCs*	Indicator 1: *Year 1*: 5% HPR population accessing e-services (quick wins result) *Year 2*: 30% HPR population accessing e-services, disaggregated by age and gender *Year 3*: 55% HPR population accessing e-services, disaggregated by age and gender *Year 4*: 75 % HPR population accessing e-services, disaggregated by age and gender *Year 5*: At least 90% HPR population accessing e-services, disaggregated by age and gender Indicator 2: *Year 1*: 5 public e-services available (quick wins result) *Year 2*; 45 public e-services available *Year 3*; 120 public e-services available *Year 4*; 175 public e-services available Year 5: At least 200 public e-services available Indicator 3: *Year 2*: 10% public entities with interactive web portals *Year 2*: 35% public entities with interactive web portals *Year 3*: 60% public entities with interactive web portals *Year 4*: 80% public entities with interactive web portals *Year 5*: At least 95% public entities with information web portals
Output 4: *Capacity of HPRCs to use ICTs and access e-services enhanced*	Indicator 1: *Year 2*: 20% of HPR men and women ICT trained *Year 3*: 40% HPR men and women ICT trained *Year 4*: 65% HPR men and women ICT trained *Year 5*: Al least 85% of HPR men and women ICT trained Indicator 2: *Year 2: 20*% of HPRCs managing ICTs/e-services *Year 3: 45*% of HPRCs managing ICTs/e-services *Year 4: 70 *% of HPRCs managing ICTs/e-services

Outputs	Targets
	Year 5: At least 85% of HPRCs managing ICTs/e-services Indicator 3: *Year 2*: 15% of HPRCs digitally capturing local content *Year 3*: 40% of HPRCs digitally capturing local content *Year 4*: 70% of HPRCs digitally capturing local content *Year 5* : At least 85% of HPRCs digitally capturing local content

3.0 Implementation Status

At the time of writing this report, implementation activities have not commenced in earnest and as such, this report deviates from the standard format and instead seeks to provide an update on implementation, including challenges and measures that have been taken to address same.

The project document for the ICT for HPRCs was signed on November 30, 2017 with an effective start date of December 1, 2017. However, movement towards this project were delayed due to the need for consensus on responsibilities for Procurement and Financial Management in project execution. With the intervention of UNDP HQ, a letter of agreement detailing the roles and responsibilities of the Implementing Partner and UNDP was signed in July 2018.

By the time the first board meeting was held, there were only four months available for implementation. As a result, the 2018 work plan was tailored toward activities that could have been executed within four months. These included:

1. Reimbursement to the Government of Guyana for the Baseline and Needs Assessment Study
2. Select and deploy appropriate and affordable ICT infrastructure in HPRCs: Procurement of VSATs and Solar Power Solutions
3. Procurement of Vehicles, Office Furniture and Equipment
4. Recruitment of Staff

The procurement processes for VSATs and Solar Power Solutions commenced in 2018 but the other activities were not started principally because the staff of the PMU were not contracted until mid-January 2019.

Upon receipt of proposals for VSATs and Solar Power Solutions based on UNDP's long-term agreements with suppliers, the Ministry of Public Telecommunications indicated that the prices were above the cost on the local market and that these items should be procured locally.

A second board meeting was held in February 2019 to approve the 2019 workplan. Based on this workplan, various procurement processes are currently ongoing in the rolling out of the ICT access and e-services for Hinterland, Poor and Remote Communities project.

4.0   Challenges and Recommendations

While the need for consensus was addressed, the delivery of public services to HPRCs has been delayed by more than one year. UNDP and the MOPT continue to work on findings solutions and agreements to accelerate the rate of implementation. Given the recent experience of the MOPT in the procurement of similar solar solutions and VSATs the project will explore leveraging this experience in going forward.

5.0   Financial Summary

Outputs	2018 Expenditures (US$)
Output: 00098667 - Assessment of ICT in Guyana	11,228.10
Output: 00098669 – Project Management	10,989.91
Output: 00108186 Policy Environment and Legislation Strengthened	584,121.89
Total	606,339.00