Rural Communications Development Fund (RCDF)

ANNUAL REPORT

2012/13

10 years
of
RCDF
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Executive Summary

The Rural Communications Development Fund (RCDF) is Uganda’s Universal service Fund (USF) and it is UCC’s main regulatory tool for Universal Access to communications in rural and underserved areas. Based on the available resources for the financial year 2013/14 particularly the financial and human resources, plus its accumulated capability since inception in 2003, RCDF has developed an implementation strategy for the RCDF planned activities of the year 2013/14.

Results of the year 2012/13

The performance and results of the year 2012/13 and the accumulated RCDF results and experience until the year 2012/13, among other things formed an important benchmark for the implementation strategy of the year 2013/14.

During the year 2012/13, significant results were realised. The year 2012/13 was the first year when RCDF operated as a full Project Management Office (PMO) with all project management tools in place. Templates for all routine activities were implemented and a central electronic document management system (e-DMS) was implemented.

All planned RCDF projects were by and large implemented with 100% financial commitment of the year’s budget. Among the significant RCDF projects implemented are;

- 2 Digital Terrestrial Transmission Broadcasting (DTTB) regional sites developed
- 32 new district web portals with regional translations
- Over 200 ICT laboratories established in schools including 6 Universities, 7 Health colleges, 5 colleges of commerce and 159 government secondary schools
- Community ICT training in 62 schools for over 13,000 people across the country
- Telemedicine installations in 53 hospitals were activated
- Virtual laboratory science content installed in 106 schools taking the total number of school ICT laboratories up to 300
- Providing internet connectivity including satellite connectivity to over 300 projects across the country

The main challenges experienced through the year were slow support activities functions from the UCC Directorate and slow or lack of adoption of the new system for some staff.
The strategy for implementing the activities of the year 2013/14 has born the above results and challenges in mind among other issues.

**Resources available for the year 2013/14**

There are adequate resources for the effective execution of all planned activities of RCDF for the year 2013/14. A total approved budget of US $20 million is available for both the brought forward activities from the year 2012/13 and the new activities for the year 2013/14. There is a tested, appropriate and filled organisational structure for the core activities of RCDF – technical and compliance activities. There are adequate and tested systems and templates. There is a large knowledge base accumulated that is also regularly sought through benchmarking visits by other similar USF from all over the world.

**Planned activities for the year 2013/14**

Based on the available resources and policy direction, the activities planned for RCDF’s execution for the year 2013/14 include the following:

- 3 DTTB regional sites
- Integration of ICT into 30 health facilities
- Integration of ICT into 120 schools expected to include some private schools
- Community ICT training in 50 schools expected to train about 15,000 people across the country
- Virtual laboratory science content installation in 250 schools
- Providing internet connectivity including satellite connectivity to about 240 projects across the country
- Extending both voice and data networks in northern Uganda under the ERT/ICT, World Bank funded programme
- Increased publicity activities for the programme
- Commemorating 10 years of RCDF

With the resources, experience and systems available and the commitment available from the UCC Directorate for improving the efficiency of support activities, execution of the above activities is expected to progress well, on budget and on schedule.

Bob Lyazi  
Director of RCDF

1st July, 2013
Background

1. Growth of the RCDF project portfolio since inception

In line with the two RCDF policies since inception, RCDF projects have been implemented. The cumulative number of projects implemented has accordingly been increasing steadily since RCDF inception in 2003 as illustrated in the following graph;

Cumulative number of RCDF Projects initiated during the period 2002/3 to 2013/14

2. Cumulative direct impact realised by RCDF as at the end of the year 2012/13

RCDF has realised its set objectives and in some cases surpassed them. Several Universal Service Funds (USF) just like RCDF from various parts of the world, continue to visit RCDF every year to benchmark with it. The main results and impact of RCDF as at 2012/13 include;

- Enabling 100% voice network coverage at sub county level for Uganda
- Enabling integration of ICT into nearly all government secondary schools, with the effect that Computer Studies at Advanced level has been made a compulsory subject for all schools in Uganda
• A big diversity of RCDF programmes addressing various aspects of the communications gap
• Presidency for the Association of all USF funds in the Commonwealth
• Absorption of all available funds
• Enabling the initiation of the Digital Terrestrial Transmission Broadcasting network as part of the digital migration programme for Uganda
RCDF Results for the year 2012/13

The main achievements for the year which are illustrated in subsequent pages include;

- 2 Digital Terrestrial Transmission Broadcasting (DTTB) regional sites developed
- 32 new district web portals with regional translations developed
- 205 ICT laboratories established in schools including 6 Universities, 7 Health training institutions, and 5 colleges of Commerce
- Community ICT training in 62 schools for over 13,000 people across the country
- Telemedicine installations in 53 hospitals were activated
- Virtual laboratory science content installed in 106 schools
- Providing internet connectivity including satellite connectivity to over 300 projects across the country
- 100% financial commitment of the year’s budget
- Operating as a proper PMO
- Placing 17 print media supplements
- Receiving a technology innovations award
- Hosting several international benchmark visits
1 ICT laboratories established

Installation of computers in Education institutions forms a basic component of the programme for Integration of ICT into Education in Uganda. During the year 2012/13 installation of computers was done in the following institutions:

- ICT laboratories for 6 Universities including the UPDF Technology University at Lugazi, to add to the 3 established during the year 2011/12
- ICT laboratories for all 7 Health training institutions
- ICT laboratories for all 13 core primary teachers’ Colleges
- ICT laboratories for all 5 Uganda Colleges of Commerce
- ICT laboratories for 15 Government Technical Institutes
- ICT laboratories for 159 Secondary schools including the Luzira maximum security prison secondary school

Consequently, the total number of education institutions installed with ICT laboratories since programme inception in 2007 is 1,002 of which 952 are government secondary schools.

Hon. Okello Oryem (in blue shirt) accompanied by Kitgum district local leaders tour the computer laboratory at Kitgum High School.
2 Activation of Telemedicine in all Government Hospitals

Telemedicine installations in all 53 government hospitals originally installed with ICT equipment were activated following onto installation of internet connectivity. Activation of the systems was done by RCDF staff and it included training of users among other associated activities.

A Hospital laboratory technician using one of the six Telemedicine equipment units at Agoro Health Centre IV, Pader district following onto the user training

3 Internet Connectivity – Terrestrial and Satellite

Following onto the completion of installation of hardware in various project sites, installation of internet connectivity was effected in the following sites during the financial year;

- 40 Resident District Commissioner offices
- 221 Schools
- 53 Hospitals

Sites that are located in an area with operator data network coverage are provided with the cheaper terrestrial connectivity and those outside an operator’s network coverage are provided with satellite connectivity.
Satellite connectivity: An internet modem (left – white) and an associated Vsat dish (on top of the roof) at St. Anne’s Ntusi Secondary School, Sembabule district

4 Virtual Science Laboratories established - 106

Virtual Science Laboratory application installation was effected in 106 schools to add to installations done earlier on by the Ministry of Education and Sports bringing the total number of schools with that content to 550. The virtual science laboratory application is one of the primary content applications that are used on the ICT laboratories.

A virtual Chemistry Experiment for laboratory preparation of hydrochloric Acid, one of the O-level curriculum practical Chemistry experiments

5 ICT Skills training for Communities around Schools
Community ICT training was carried out in 62 secondary schools for 15,000 community persons during the year bringing the total number of persons resulting in a total number of over 62,000 community persons acquiring skills since inception of the programme in 2011. The training is carried out during school holidays when the ICT laboratories are not in use by the schools.

The Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, Hon. Edward Sekandi (second left) awarding a certificate to a community member who completed ICT skills’ training at Kikungwe Secondary School

UPDF Officers undergoing training in ICT practical and applied skills for the army at the Entebbe Air force Secondary School
6 Digital Terrestrial Transmission Broadcasting Sites established - 2

Installation of two Digital Terrestrial Transmission Broadcasting (DTTB) sites one for greater Kampala region and the other for the Mbarara region as key inputs for the digital migration process of Uganda was done during the year.

The two newly installed digital transmitters installed each of 2.5 Kilowatts

7 District web portals established - 32

Web portal development including local language translations into seven common languages was carried out for 32 new districts of Uganda to add to those for the existing districts so as to cover all the 112 districts of Uganda
### Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>District Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Agago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Alebtong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Amudat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Buikwe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bukomansimbi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Bulambuli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Buvuma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Buyende</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gomba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Butambala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Kalungu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Kibuku</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Kiryandongo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Kole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Kyakwanzi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Kyegegwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Lamwo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Luuka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Lwengo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Mitooma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Napak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Ngora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Ngora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Otuke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Rubirizi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Serere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Zombo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Ntoroko</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Buhweju</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Sheema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Namayingo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Kween</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Kween district web portal, a typical new district web portal**
8 Technological innovations award received

UCC received an international award for technological innovation using the n-computing technology from N-Computing Inc

Right:

An accolade awarded to UCC by N-Computing Technologies at Barcelona, Spain in recognition of the innovative technological improvements that the RCDF team made to the N-Computing hardware sharing solution at the Ssese Farm School, Kalangala district

Left:

Mr. Bob Lyazi, the Director of RCDF (right) receiving a technology innovations award to UCC from the President of N-Computing Technologies, Mr. Raj Dhingra (left). Looking on in the centre is Mr. Catherine Roberts the Marketing Director for N-Computing, EMEA,
9 International benchmark and field visits to RCDF projects

RCDF hosted several international delegations on benchmarking visits

A member of the ICASA delegation (Standing, right) interacting with students Bishops Secondary School, Mukono during a tour of the RCDF established computer laboratory

10 Financial absorption – 100% budget commitment

The year 2012/13 was the second year running when RCDF was able to absorb all funds available/budgeted for the year. The RCDF financial status in the UCC portfolio for the financial year 2012/13 stood at an unprecedented 40% as indicated below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>RCDF</strong></td>
<td><strong>30.4 Billion</strong></td>
<td><strong>40%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directorate and other regulatory activities</td>
<td>46.7 Billion</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>76.6 Billion</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Planned activities for the year 2013/14

Activities planned for the year 2013/14 are basically comprised of completion of those projects that were still under installation at the end of the year 2012/13 and new projects for the year 2013/14 as shown below;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project/Activity</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B/f from the year 2012/13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health ICT projects</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content development – 3 sectors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital migration – broadcasting infrastructure for greater Mbarara</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research projects</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERT/ICT component investments</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERT/ICT component Technical Assistance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New projects for the year 2012/13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadband connectivity</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration of ICT into Health</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community ICT user training</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content development – Education</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital migration – broadcasting infrastructure, 3 regions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School ICT laboratories</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Activities for the year 2013/14

- Commissioning several RCDF projects of strategic significance that include;
  - The Upper Prison Secondary school ICT laboratory
  - 11 Army schools ICT laboratories
  - 9 Universities ICT laboratories
  - The 1,000th secondary school ICT laboratory
  - The First batch of private schools ICT model – a blue print
  - The Lugazi Military University ICT laboratory
  - Continued Community ICT training
  - 50 Tertiary Institutions ICT laboratories
- Initiation of Commemorating 10 years of the existence of RCDF
- Detailed attention to each project’s operation and standardisation
- Rationalisation of internal processes e.g. the project database increased interactivity and enhanced compliance of project implementers
- Exhibition of ICT for Education components at the e-learning Africa international conference to be hosted by Uganda
- Local Government workshop for enhanced usage of district ICT facilities such as the district web portals
- Commissioning the e-Health in Uganda programme