



# **KIKANDWA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY INNOVATION RESOURCE CENTER**

**DREAMING BIG: IMPACT REPORT FOR JANUARY and FEBRUARY 2014**

3/4/2015

**COMMUNITY INNOVATION RESOURCE CENTER**

KEA CIRC

## **Dreaming Big**

Since our inception in December 2012, we have accomplished a lot. I continue to that believe we can achieve so much more for the community around us.

Being located in Uganda, the resource center is situated within a context which is essentially different from any study of ICT use in a developed context. Poverty, gender inequality, HIV/aids, and lack of access to even basic resources such as electricity are just some of the backdrops of the community in which we operate. Our resource center shows that the creative use of ICTs and facilitation of existing structures and resources can improve people's means of communication, with positive effect on their livelihood as well as their participation in public life. However, the majorities of people especially women in the area remain without access to means of communication and are entangled in structures of inequality.

The center applies a broad understanding of ICT casing various ways of information collection, exchange and dissemination. The role of ICT varies somewhat from rural to urban areas. Whereas the actors in rural areas particularly stress access to agricultural and health related information, improved communication within the community, and confidence building, the actors in urban areas are more focused on engendering ICT policies, podcast and video as means to share experiences, and the role of internet as a platform for communication, networking and online visibility. The various stakeholders in urban centers state that ICT usage, not least the internet, is seen as significant for improving the women's economic and social situation, while internet plays a minor role for the women in rural areas.

In Kikandwa, ICT use is dominated by conventional media therefore we need to create platforms for conversation and dialogue that are important as the access to ICTs. The position of ICT capacity building both in the form of training, knowledge and experience sharing needs to be emphasized in especially rural settings.

Over 80% of Uganda's population is rural based and depends almost entirely on agriculture for livelihood. Diseases, pests, soil degradation and other factors such as lack of market for easily perishable crops have affected the total national incomes and subsequently the standard of living of people in rural communities. Generally speaking, access to ICTs such as computers and internet is very constrained, compared to conventional technologies such as radio and television. This is due to a range of development issues such as poor telecommunications infrastructure, unstable power supply, lack of ICT skills, high cost of acquiring and maintaining ICT equipment, high cost of making information available in local languages, and lack of sufficient time on the part of women due to gender roles (Jørgensen, 2010).

Therefore KEA CIRC needs to scale up the access and use of ICT to fit the rural settings by providing material that is most needed by the rural community. Information on issues pertaining to agriculture, gender disparities, health, climate change and community development needs to be made accessible on a broader basis thus the need to continue empowering the resource center to meet its vision and objectives.

KEA has recently got its own plot of land and is constructing offices that will house a state of art resource center with better facilities. This will help to save on the monthly rent expenses in the long run, funds which will be pushed to support other activities in the resource center.

We experienced frequent power shortages and this has limited our services to the community with using a generator proving to be expensive due to high fuel prices in the community.

We continue to appreciate the role that you have done in making our services happen in the community. We thank you for the love and belief in our cause of extending ICT services to the people of kikandwa Sub County. KEA CIRC also thanks global giving for sharing a platform where ideas can be transformed into a reality; KEA CIRC was an idea and is now a reality.

Thank you our lovely donors that have driven us this far.



Figure 1: New CIRC Offices under construction