10ᵗʰ Global Symposium for Regulators Dakar Senegal

10ᵗʰ to 12ᵗʰ November 2010

Connect a school – connect a community program

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Introduction

- As part of a national strategy, the primary objective of the government is digital inclusion in order to ensure that usage of ICT services:
  - Contributes to the socioeconomic development of society as a whole,
  - Helps to reduce the division between rural and urban areas, by promoting equality of access to and use of
    - information,
    - education and learning, training,
    - ***buying and selling goods and services***,
    - entertainment,
    - working and communicating more effectively.

Initiatives aimed at implementing national strategy:

- Policy initiatives:
  - ICT Policy,
  - Legal framework being reviewed (Communications Act being amended) to put up UA funding mechanism
  - Regulatory framework: Licensing obligations
  - Government put aside some fund to address access gap
  - Other initiatives: partner with different stakeholders

Rural Community Access Program

- Where network is available: govt facilitates access
- Where there is with limited access or no network at all

  - Partnering with different stakeholders to establish PIAC and
  - Subsidizing the extension of network and improving signal and establishment of PIAC (ten rural areas have benefited across the country)
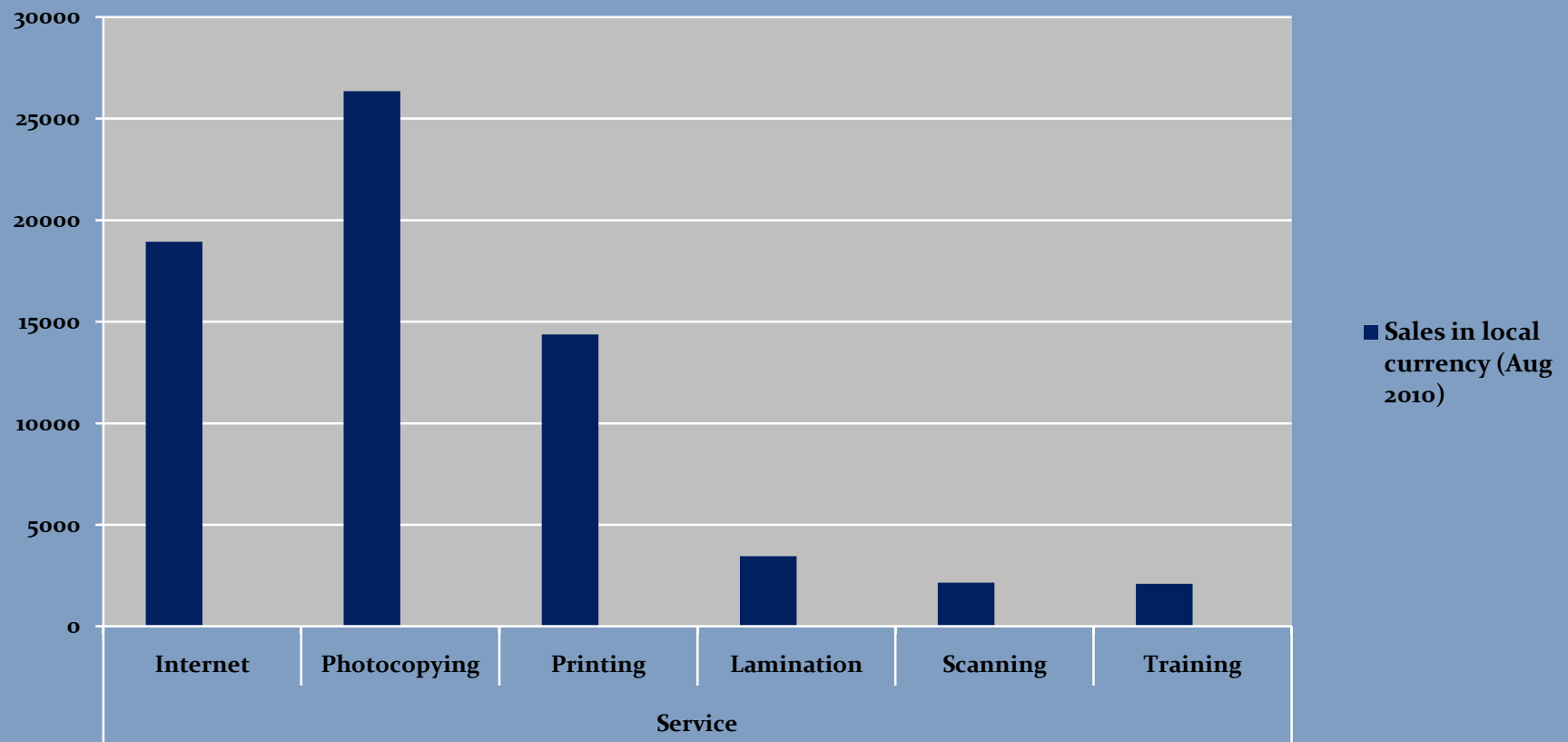
Rural Community Access Programmes

- The ITU Special Initiative Project under the joint funding of the Government and the ITU

- Universal Access Project under the joint funding of the government and the World Bank

- Government initiative projects –own funding mechanism

- Last mile Connectivity: under the Government/World Bank agreements

Accomplishments

Funding	Status
(ITU/Govt)	9 PIAC s in rural areas
(Govt/WB)	8 Internet Point of presence and 8 PIAC in eight districts: wireless broad band at the speed of 128kbps/256kbps
(Govt/WB)	1224 public payphones have been installed distributed in 10 rural districts
(Govt)	Internet Lab/connectivity to 2 university colleges 3 PIACs in rural areas

Sales from each service in one of the PIAC established in the rural areas (Vikwa PIAC – Kasungu)

Bar chart titled "Sales in local currency (Aug 2010)" showing sales by service:
- Internet: ~19000
- Photocopying: ~26000
- Printing: ~14500
- Lamination: ~3500
- Scanning: ~2200
- Training: ~2100

X-axis: Service

Challenges

- Bandwidth cost pauses a challenge to access and sustainability of PIAC.
- Power supply

Way forward

- Connecting postal agencies and other rural communities
- Connecting 100 govt institutions (under the RCIPMW)
- Broadband (under RCIPMW) BB availability & affordability to public and private sectors) through submarine virtual landing point to be operated by potential telco;
- UA fund

Way forward

- Sensitizing the communities: Program to be undertaken in areas where Internet PoPs have been established: govt institutions, students and local communities with their leaders

- Localization project: local language possibility to be used by the people who can't use foreign language

Way forward

Project	Funding
Connect postal agencies	Budgeted for 2010/11
Connect 100 govt institutions (schools, district assemblies, clinics etc)	Budgeted for 2010/12
Broadband project (RCIPMW)	Budgeted 2010/12
Connect universities	Feasibility study to be undertaken
Sensitization programmes	Budgeted for 2010/11
Localization project (30 months)	Budgeted 2010/11
UA Programs	UA fund mechanism (Com Act Review)

the end