

Project Closure Report
Prepared by: ITU Regional Office for Africa, Addis Ababa
Project Title : Computer Training & Braille Transcribing Service
Project number: 7ETH08002
Project Time Frame: January 2008 – June 2010
Project manager: Asenath Mpatwa
Project Partners: ATCB & ITU
Project objectives and a brief description of main achievements: Objective: • To assist persons with disabilities and in particular the blind and visually impaired to access and use Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) • To facilitate their integration into the main stream community such as schools & professional institutions as well as social and economic activities and among others. Brief achievement of the project: The ATCB has set up a computer college for blind and visually impaired persons-the Pioneers Collegiate for the Blind, a computer college for the blind and a Braille production unit which serves institutions and individuals with transcribing prints or electronic formatted books in Braille. It also organizes workshops with local and international communities such as ITU, UNESCO and AU to build capacity and awareness. Since its inception, ATCB has trained more than 200 blind and visually impaired persons in basic computer skills, technical and vocational training programs. In 2008, the ATCB obtained a license to operate as a Technical Vocational and Education Training (TVET) institutes at level three (medium level). It became the first recognized computer training institute for visually impaired persons in Ethiopia. The centre enrolls students with an ordinary level certificate or its equivalent with at least 1.7 GPA at high school and basic knowledge in English. This is in line with the TVET requirements. 24 students were enrolled in the initial year (2007/08) out of which 20 successfully completed. The training group of 2009/10 has 18 students and is closely engaged in raising awareness and imparting skills to make use of ICTs and assistive technologies to give blind and visually impaired persons to have opportunities for employment and education and to participate fully in social and economic activities as other members of the society in Ethiopia.
Work Plan: 1. Project coordination & preparation. ACHIEVED 2. Project implementation. ACHIEVED 3. Project evaluation. ACHIEVED
Project Activities and Outputs: Activities included: 1. Preparation of technical specifications for the required equipment. ACHIEVED 2. Procurement and installation of equipment. ACHIEVED 3. Technical support and expert assistance. ACHIEVED Outputs included: 1. Identification, procurement and installation of suitable equipment to be deployed. ACHIEVED 2. Training of trainers. ACHIEVED

3. Building awareness among the general public not only on the rights and privileges of blind and visually impaired persons in Ethiopia but also in the use of computers with adaptive technologies through seminars and workshops. **ACHIEVED**

Detail Results and Impact:

1. **The Pioneer Collegiate for the Blind:** Established in 2000, the ATCB has trained more than 200 visually impaired people in basic computer skills, technical and vocational training programs. It has a licence to operate as a Technical Vocational and Education Training (TVET) institutes at level three (medium level) obtained in 2008.
2. **Braille Transcribing Centre:** Braille transcribing is the conversion of alphabet letters into meaningful dots that visually impaired people read using their fingertips. ATCB started providing Brailing service in 2000 supported by the Canadian Government as a pilot project in Africa. It has since converted more than 2000 text books and literature in Braille in both English and Amharic.
3. **ATCB Piassa Internet Centre:** The Piassa internet centre is located in the centre of Addis Ababa. The internet centre is only open to student and staff of the ATCB Pioneer Colligates. The café has nine (9) networked computers, one of which is a server but can also be used when required, a scanner and a printer.

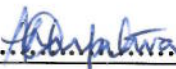
Provide the list of lessons learned and best practices:

It is still early in the project lifetime to make a scientific quantification of its impact on the project beneficiaries. There is however a general feeling of appreciation, optimism and a general improvement in the welfare of the project beneficiaries including specific lessons as follows:

- Small investment in ICT skills can lead to high dividends for the blind and visually impaired persons (see testimonials in the evaluation report).
- Individual efforts can serve as a catalytic for creating awareness among communities and government to make use of ICTs to bring persons with disabilities into the labour market hence contribute to poverty alleviation.
- Empowering blind and visually impaired through ICTs gives them opportunities for higher education and more independence in life instead of burdening care takers.
- Other donors are now coming to support the centre due to initial activities funded by ITU, thus confirming the importance of ITU's catalytic role in fostering use of ICTs.

Project Budget status:

The ITU Contributed USD 107,500 to the project. This contribution was largely for IT equipment, software and maintenance services for the vocational training and the Braille transcribing centers. A FINSITU as of September 2010 is attached.

List of attachments -An Evaluation Report -FINSIT for Project no. ETH08002 as of September 2010.
Name and Title of Project Manager: Asenath Mpatwa, Senior Adviser-Regional Office for Africa Signature: ...  Date: 23 September, 2010
Decisions: Signature: Date:, 2010
Project Partners Acceptance: Signature:Date:, 2010

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION
7ETH08002
Computer Training and Braille transcribing service

Financial Situation as at 23.09.2010

COMMITMENT ITEMS	DESCRIPTION	CHF	CHF
		TOTAL BUDGET	COMMS. 2010
	PERSONNEL		
33220010	NPPP - Salaries		
33210010	External services - Consulting	7,090	
	Ssemboga Ann Rita 5 days to Addis + 13 WAH		7,090
	Sub-total :	7,090	7,090
	MISSION EXPENSES		
32030010	DSA - SSA Consulting	1,095	
	Ssemboga Ann Rita 5 days to Addis + 13 WAH		1,095
32030020	Transportation - SSA Consulting	1,158	
	Ssemboga Ann Rita 5 days to Addis + 13 WAH		1,158
32030030	Misc. Mission - SSA Consulting	139	
	Ssemboga Ann Rita 5 days to Addis + 13 WAH		139
	Sub-total :	2,392	2,392
	EXTERNAL SERVICES		
33230010	Sub-contracts ITU-D		
	Sub-total :		
	PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES		
36120020	Purchase IT equipment		
35100010	Office supplies	4,161	
	INDEX BRAILLE : Purchase of paper		4,000
	Sub-total :	4,161	4,000
	BANK CHARGES AND EXCHANGE LOSSES		
38300030	UNDP Service charges		
38300010	Bank charges		
	Sub-total :		
	COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES		
37110010	Postage and expedition charges	2,700	

	INDEX BRAILLE : Freight		2,606
	Sub-total :	2,700	2,606
	OTHER CHARGES		
38990030	Internal invoicing (DPS)		
	Sub-total :		
	SUB-TOTAL PROJECT	13,643	16,088
38990020	AOS 7.5% on total expenditure	1,023	1,207
	TOTAL BUDGET	14,666	17,295

PROJECT INFORMATION

Allocation

Remaining balance as at 01.01.2010
(US\$ 17'057,31 / Exch,rate 1.030)

CHF
17,569

Project Manager:

A. Mpatwa

WBS Element

P.40281.2.02

Activity as at 23.09.2010

17,295

Actual Funds Available as at 23.09.2010

274

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