



## Women and Girls in ICT | | GRENADA's Initiative 2012



## Overview

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC), under its Universal Service Fund (USF) Programme, engaged in a series of activities centred on the International Telecommunications Union's theme for 2012 "*Women and Girls in ICT.*" This project was selected with the goal of increasing awareness about the importance of ICTs thereby empowering women in society to view ICT as a tool for personal advancement and economic development.

The USF is primarily focused on telecommunications and ICT related projects which are geared at increasing the availability and use of services among the population, particularly the marginalized in society. The Women and Girls in ICT project as a form of awareness is timely and relevant; The Women and Girls in ICT project increases awareness about the potential of technology thereby encouraging persons to take advantage of the infrastructure and services established under USF projects.

The NTRC collaborated with the following agencies to execute this project: GRENCODA, GNOW (Grenada National Organization for Women), RGPF (Royal Grenada Police Force), Ministry of ICT (Information and Communication Technology), Ministry of Education, ICT Centre for Excellence.



Women  
and Girls  
in ICT

# Project Scope

## 1.0 **Coordinate session for the Mothers on Cyber security & COP**

This session targeted women and mothers as a means of educating mothers about the dangers of cyberspace and how they can monitor and protect children in cyberspace; This included warnings signs that children may be a target for online predators, how to monitor children while online and commonly used symbols which may make parents aware of conversations that children may be engaged in while online. These sessions will make parents better able to advise their children about the don'ts of online communication.

Work undertaken under this project:

- Workshop for mothers on cyber security including presentations and demonstrations to women and mothers about cyber security and Children Online Protection
- Five working sessions for mothers in cyberspace in five parishes in Grenada
- Presentation on Children Online Protection

2.0 **Coordinate training for women in building e-business** – This session was geared at providing participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to develop businesses using ICTs. This session targeted women with small business and women in general thus providing them with the skills to improve their small business and the skills set in Information and communication technology.

3.0 **Coordinate and execute the essay writing competition** – the essay writing competition targeted secondary school students. This competition was geared at increasing children's awareness about ICTs and to view ICTs as a catalyst for change. This competition also encouraged children to think of creative ways in which Information and Communications Technology can be used as one of the solution for economic development.



# Project Activities

This project involved three programme of activities observed under the Theme for World Telecommunications Day. This theme focused on increasing awareness about ICTs as an enabler for change in society and empowering women and girls in society to take up roles in ICT which has been primarily viewed as a male dominated field/career thereby creating a levelled playing field and creating more gender equality.

## Activities

### 1. Teaching parents how to better monitor their children's internet activities

#### *Session for mothers and woman on Children Online Protection (COP)*

Many USF projects increase the availability of internet among young people through broadband infrastructure projects and CAPs project. Thus, to better protect the children and ensure that they have a safe online experience, a workshop was held for mothers and women. This project targeted remote communities where parents knew very little about the dangers of the internet or even its ability to harm children.

### 2. Developing an IT related skill

#### **Building e-business**

The second session was a hands-on session for women on building e-businesses. This targeted small business, unemployed persons or persons thinking of starting their own businesses. This course was targeted because of its ability to provide a viable alternative for women in terms of employment. With a continued economic recession, finding creative ways to maximize existing resources to create employment opportunities is paramount. Hence this course taught persons to use technology/ICTs to create employment opportunities for themselves. This course drills down into the structure and concept of different types of business, developing business plans, writing proper business correspondence, marketing a business, finding a target market and the tools to get started.

### 3. Encouraging children to view ICT as a catalyst for change

#### **Essay writing competition**

The third session targeted girls in secondary schools. The session was designed to get young women thinking of technology/ICT and how it can be used for economic development. In Grenada, while there has been an increase in the number of women/girls in ICT related fields, this number is still small. With most of the senior roles denominated by males in Grenada, an activity of this nature will have an impact; This competition will show girls that ICT is not gender bias and as result will encourage them to think of ICT as a tool which can impact change and promote economic development, as well as a potential career choice.

# Project Activities – Session for Mothers on Children Online Protection

## Session for Mothers on Children Online Protection (COP)

### Activity One:

#### 1.0 Coordinate session for the Mothers in Cyberspace

The objective of this session was to educate mothers and women on cyberspace by providing them with an in-depth knowledge of symbols commonly used to communicate in cyberspace and equipping them with the knowledge about cyber security, including the warning signs that a child may be a target for an online predator.

This session targeted 50 women in 5 parishes in Grenada. This session was a collaborative effort of many community development organizations which have experience in community outreach and development programmes. Each session included a video on cyber danger followed by a presentation on Children Online Protection.

The session targeted parents first because parents are more inclined and more likely to enforce safety measures and ensure children observe appropriate behaviours as a role of parenting. Based on the outcome and the remarks from the parents, the strategy met its objective. Parents, after the presentation, vowed that they will monitor their children online activity and ensure that they were more aware of their children's activities as oppose to leaving it to their children. Many who never thought of befriending their children on social networking sites and monitoring their pages were more encouraged to do so.

## Session for Mothers on COP – Grand Roy

*St. Johns - Grand Roy*

*Date: September 25, 2012*

*Venue: Grand Roy R.C Church Hall*

Grand Roy was the first of the parishes to be targeted; this session was well attended by 40 persons. The session started with prayers and then continued with a few brief remarks on the intent of the program, after which a presentation was made to participants.



and Girls

The parents were very receptive to the topic and information displayed. Many indicated that they were not aware of the many dangers and left the use of the internet to their children who knew more than they did. At the end of the presentation, parents were better able to read conversation commonly engaged in by children using their codes. Parents were also more enthusiastic about getting involved in their children's online activity since it was the safest way to monitor their activities. Parents were also more aware of the health impact of the computers and as such, they were encouraged to ensure that their children observe the laptop ergonomics.

While some felt that it would be better to curtail the activities of their children in light of the information, there was a general consensus among the parents that children will find a way to use the internet and as such it is more effective to get involved in their use to better monitor their children.

The session commenced at 5:20 and ended at 7:20

## Session for Mothers on COP – Mt. Rich

*St. Patrick's - Mt. Rich*

*Date: October 10, 2012*

*Venue: Mt. Rich Community Centre*

The second session targeted Mt. Rich, like Grand Roy, the session was well attended, a total of 35 persons were present to witness the presentation. The parents were very receptive about the content and agreed that they took their children's computer use for granted because they were never aware of the dangers that could result. The parents at the end of the session were more motivated and knowledgeable to monitor their children's online activity.



The session started at 5:20 and ended at 8:00



## Session for Mothers on COP – Marquis

*St. Andrew - Marquis*

*Date: October 11, 2012*

*Venue: Marquis Pentecostal Church*

The group at Marquis was the smallest of the first three, probably because persons were deterred by the inclement weather. A total of 27 persons were present. However, the size did not deter their interest. Parents and Grandparents were present at the session to learn how they could better monitor their children, while parenting the digital generation. The participants were very positive and attentive to the message being taught.



The session started at 5:30 and ended at 7:30



## Session for Mothers on COP – Coast Guard

### *St. Marks - Coast Guard*

*Date: October 18, 2012*

*Venue: Coast Guard IT Centre*

A total of 37 persons attended the session at Coast Guard. The session was very interactive and well received by the residents. Many were more aware of the dangers of using the internet and other forms of information and communications technology. Based on the feedback, the women indicated that they were better off at the start of the session to monitor their session.



The session started at 5:15 and ended at 7:15

## Session for Mothers on COP – Corinth

### St. David's – Corinth

*Date: November 28, 2012*

*Venue: Corinth Government School*

The session at Corinth was not well attended like the previous sessions; however, the message was still well received by the participants. Many of the participants requested similar session to be carried out in the future at their community group. The parents from the Corinth session were more involved in technology that the previous groups, however, they too were also not aware of the dangers of using the internet.



The session started at 5:40 and ended at 7:30

# Building e-business course

## Building e-business course

### 2.0 Coordinate training for women on building e-business

The Objective of this training was to provide a hands-on training for women thereby increasing the skills set and employability of women particularly small business, unemployed women in Grenada.

This course targeted 50 women throughout Grenada. The session was designed to provide women with technical skills in ICT, in keeping with the goal of the theme to use ICTs to provide new digital opportunities to empower women to end discrimination.

The response to the course was overwhelming. The session was held at three centres in Grenada:

- ✚ Hermitage Community Access Point - St. Andrew
- ✚ Marquis Community Access Point - St. Patrick
- ✚ ICT Centre of Excellence and Innovation - St. George

The course commenced October 16, 2012 and concluded November 29, 2012. Classes were held twice per week for a seven week duration. As part of the course, presentations were made by the Grenada Industrial Development Cooperation (on starting a business and creating business plans) as well other financial institutions to outline the funding opportunities available to persons upon completion of the course. One of the requirements of the course was to get an e-business started. All participants completing the course were issued with a certificate from Grenada's ICT Centre for Excellence and Innovation. This course was collaboration between the NTRC and the ICT Centre for Excellence and Innovation.





# Essay Writing Competition

## Essay Writing Competition

### 3.0 Coordinate and execute the essay writing competition

This objective of the competition was to develop the analytical and innovative thinking of young persons to view ICT as a tool for change and economic development in all strata of society

The essay writing competition was the last activity under the Women and Girls in ICT Project. This competition targeted all girls in secondary schools throughout Grenada. The objective of the essay was to get young girls to view ICT as a catalyst for change and a tool which can aid in the economic development by increasing the efficiency of various sectors.

The essay writing competition commenced on October 8, 2012 and concluded November 27, 2012. The essays were judged in two categories:

- ✚ forms one to three
- ✚ forms four and five

Prizes were awarded to the students within the two categories with the top three largest scores.

The participation of the essay writing competition was not as anticipated. This can be attributed to other essay writing competitions ongoing in the secondary schools at the same time, the unwillingness of the teachers to encourage students to participate, the nature of the topic and the number of words requested.





# Building e-business Participants

## Participants

Certificates for the building e-business course were awarded to:

Aban Atlyn  
Alexis Rose-Ann  
Baptiste Monique  
Belfon Shari  
Cadore Deborah  
Cato Elista  
Charles Yolande  
Edwards Carla  
Francis Dwaynel  
Joseph Anelta  
Julien Sylvan  
Licorish Daina  
Mc Ewen Shenel  
Phillip Ravicka  
Pierre Jacqueline  
Pollydore Cassandra  
Roberts Ava  
Robertson Catherine  
Sandy Camille  
Sandy Tessa  
Scott Keyonne  
Steele-Mc Kenzie Marilyn  
Weeks Tahirah  
Williams Ann

Charles Andrea  
Francis Ashmay  
Cato Bianca  
John Blandi  
Edgar Carrel  
Joseph Cheryl  
Joseph Donella  
Matthew Elizabeth  
Smith Ethlyn  
Francis Eudene  
Francis Gezel  
Mitchell Judith  
Wilson Kimlyn  
John Laurel  
Walters Marlene  
Richards Olivia  
Thomas Rockel  
Murray Ruby  
Lewis Sharnell  
Charles Shirleyann  
Jeffrey Stacia  
Ross Tara  
Marrast Vernill



**Tessra Sandy** – We the women and girls started the program for different reasons, for career enhancement, to improve our computer skills and for some of us curiosity and fun. NTRC and the other organizations provided a free opportunity for the women and girls to become knowledgeable about technology and business especially the importance of merging the two together achieve success.



Throughout the course we learnt many important things such as:

- All solid and successful business begins with a well thought through and well written business plan.
- The steps necessary to put our business ideas together.
- The Grenada Industrial Development Corporation and the support they can provide to take our business from dreams to reality.
- How to use the internet to increase the success of our business
- Tools to build our e-business such as: website design, buying domain name, application programs, accounting software example: QuickBooks, email and network.
- How to build an office (on a budget),
- How and where to purchase computers,
- Using free sources of software to save funds and the importance of using authentic copies of programs for our business
- Customer service and its importance to the success of our business

As a woman we had our challenges understanding e-business and what it entails but as the course unfolded, we realized that the challenges are to be embraced and to help prepare us for the world of business and technology. We learned a great deal and acquired a wealth of information and experience. All the students created a business plan and merge the plan with technology.

The NTRC aims through courses like these to increase awareness on ICT and to encourage women and girls to view ICT as a mechanism for personal advancement. This course definitely educated us the women and girls towards our personal advancement and economic development. It is now up to us to continue to build on what we have learnt, we have only tipped the iceberg and there is so much more to discover and learn in the world of information, communication and technology.

We thank everyone who has supported us in the course. It was indeed a blessing

I thank you



**Ruby Murray** — Abraham Lincoln said "the best way to predict the future is to create it". I stand here this morning on behalf of the group of ladies from Hermitage, St. Patrick and Marquis, St. Andrew. To begin I must say it was a casual stroll turned into big business - I attended an afternoon session organized by Grencoda and the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (NTRC) and they had a film show about the kids using computer in ignorance of their parents and getting involve in all sorts of things. They passed a form inviting persons to an e-business class so I registered and attended the first class casually and never missed a session.

We would like to thank the NTRC and Mr. Cato our tutor in a very special way for taking these ladies and turning them into business ladies. At the beginning of the course I can still remember Mr. Cato scratching his head trying to figure out how he was going to teach twenty plus persons with just five computers in six weeks. It was a challenge but I must confess that it was loads of fun. Because we had few computers the camaraderie was great, we were able to interact with each other, help one another, make fun, laugh and work together, help Shirley-Ann to understand to understand that the computer is user friendly, make fun of website names etc. We divided the class into groups of five and groups will teach other groups.

NTRC and our teacher Mr. Cato are geniuses and must be commended for a job well done. Mr. Cato first made us to understand e-business we made us create our own websites - Eden Online, Design, Fan City, Local Spices, Local Wines, Gifted Hands, Just Catering, Caribbean Treasure, Nature Doc Herbal and Smith Confectionaries. He then lead to domain names, we had to think of some really good names and I am pleased to say that there are some on the market right now. After we did all that, he must have thought that when things are a bit slow the ladies can blog about their websites or they can find employment online so now we are registered to do jobs online.

It was very amazing to teach these ladies to use the computer as a tool to make money and now their kids may have to ask for time and space because we have ladies who will like to behave like Mr. Mike Mann to see how much domain names they can sell in a day. NTRC affiliate and Mr. Cato we would like to let you know that what you have done for us will not go to waste. We are going to be busy business ladies. NTRC theme for 2012 women and girls in ICT was very fruitful; we have really achieved and are going to develop ourselves economically. We will continue to help each other to develop and make sure the business continues.

Thank you very much for everything from all of us. It is amazing what can be accomplished when you don't care who gets the credit. Again, I say thank you for making us business ladies.



# Awardees

**Results of the essay writing competition were as follows:**

**Form 1-3 category:**

3rd place Timara Bubb of St. Joseph's Convent St. George – Awarded a smart phone, Samsung E2220

2nd place Raynell Bridgeman of St. Andrew Anglican Secondary School - Awarded a Kindle HD

1st place Nia Douglas of St. Andrew Anglican Secondary School - Awarded a Kindle HD Fire



**Form 4-5 category:**

3rd place Keziah John of Hillsborough Secondary School- Awarded a smart phone Samsung E2220

2nd place Candice Blache of St. Andrew Anglican Secondary School - Awarded a Kindle HD

1st place Shenika Adams of St. Joseph's Convent St. Andrew – Awarded a Lenovo notebook





## Closing & Awards Ceremony

The National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, under its Universal Service Fund (USF) Programme, held its Presentation and Award Ceremony on December 13, 2012 at the Grenada National Stadium. In attendance at the ceremony were essay writing competition participants, building e-business course participants, representatives from the telecommunications providers, Ministry of Education, Ministry of ICT, GRENCODA, GNOW, Commissioners and Staff of the NTRC, Minister for Works, Physical Development and Public Utilities, other specially invited guests and members of the media.

The purpose of this ceremony was to conclude the series of activities held under the Women and Girls in ICT Project. This project was geared at increasing awareness about the importance of ICT as a tool for personal advancement and economic development.

The ceremony saw the presentation of awards to the participants of the building e-business course and award of prizes to winners of the essay writing competition. Certificates to participants of the building e-business course were presented by the Minister for Works, Hon. Sen. Denneth Modeste and the prizes for winners of the essay writing competition were handed over by the telecommunications providers Cable & Wireless, Affordable Communications, Columbus Communications and Digicel, who all donated the prizes.



The winners of essay writing competition were, in the forms 1-3 category, 3rd place Timara Bubb of St. Joseph's Convent St. George, 2nd place Raynell Bridgeman of St. Andrew Anglican Secondary School and 1st place Nia Douglas of St. Andrew Anglican Secondary School. The winners in the forms 4-5 category, 3rd place Keziah John of Hillsborough Secondary School, 2nd place Candice Blache of St. Andrew Anglican Secondary School and 1st place Shenika Adams of St. Joseph's Convent St. Andrew.



Remarks were delivered by ICT Director, Ms. Loretta Simon, Project Coordinator at GNOW, Ms. Lorice Pascal and USF Administrator at NTRC, Mrs. Christa Burke-Medford. The feature address was delivered by Minister for Works, Physical Development and Public Utilities Hon. Sen. Denneth Modeste.

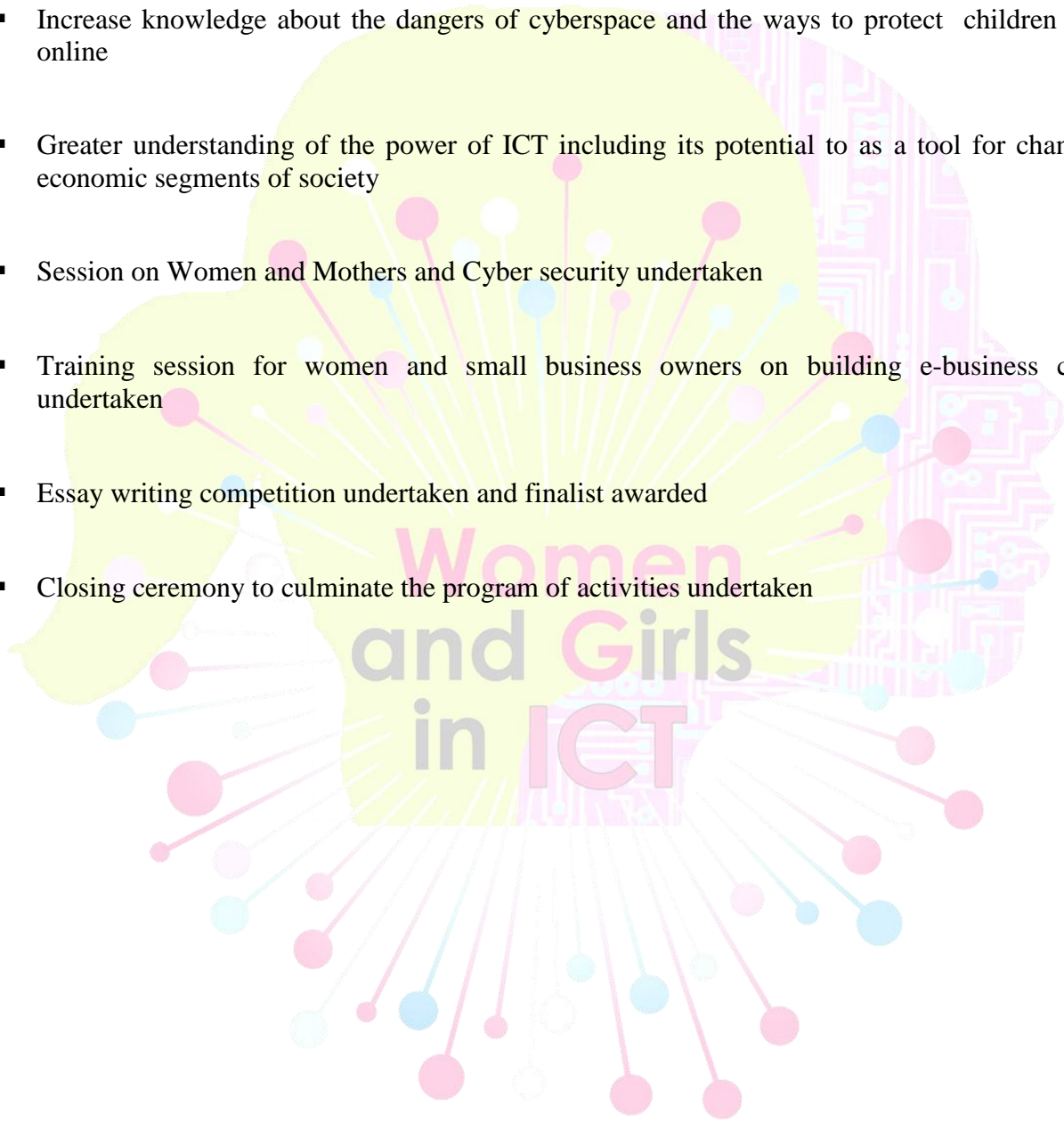
This project was a collaboration of the NTRC, GRENCODA, GNOW, RGPF, Ministry of Education, Ministry of ICT and the ICT Centre for Excellence and Innovation.

The NTRC wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to all who participated in the event.

# Project Deliverables

## Project Deliverables

- Increase knowledge about the benefits and potential of ICTs
- Increase knowledge about the dangers of cyberspace and the ways to protect children while online
- Greater understanding of the power of ICT including its potential to as a tool for change in economic segments of society
- Session on Women and Mothers and Cyber security undertaken
- Training session for women and small business owners on building e-business course undertaken
- Essay writing competition undertaken and finalist awarded
- Closing ceremony to culminate the program of activities undertaken



# Assessment of the Project

## *Lessons Learnt*

- ▲ While collaborating with external agencies, particularly community related organizations contributed to the success of the programmes, other organizations were not as effective in promoting the activities. The NTRC should take a lead role, although tasks were delegated, to ensure the message was circulated
- ▲ Essay writing competitions have become so popular in the secondary schools, that students are not enthusiastic in participating in the competitions. Many children prefer to use their hands and work as a team to create things rather than write essays
- ▲ Engage the schools and churches when carrying out session for mothers within the community, this method will yield a greater participation rather than canvassing the community and inviting people
- ▲ Children online protection was well received topic amongst the parents; The NTRC should work with community groups, School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and church groups to make presentations in the future
- ▲ The NTRC should continue to engage community development organisations when undertaking community outreach programmes. Because of their extensive experience and relationship with persons in the community, their involvement in such initiative will be fruitful.
- ▲ This project was well received by the communities and stakeholders, particularly the community development organisations. The community development organizations saw the potential of this project to impact the residents of the rural communities in a positive way through interactive and informative sessions, and hand-on training which provides skills which can improve the quality of lives of residents. The NTRC did not anticipate the level of support which was given to this project; In this regard, the NTRC should make this event an annual event targeting more persons within the communities.
- ▲ Greater internal participation in the activities undertaken will result in a more successful event