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|  | | **Document** **TDAG17-22/****32-E** |
| **16 March 2017** |
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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | | |
| ITU-D PROJECTS | | |
| **Summary:**  As stipulated by the ITU Constitution, a key function of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector is to fulfil the purposes of the Union's dual responsibility, as a United Nations specialized agency and as an executing agency, by implementing projects to facilitate and enhance telecommunications development technology by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities.  This document presents an overview of the outcomes related to ITU project implementation in six regions of ITU’s Telecommunication Development Sector, namely Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Europe.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this report and to provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **Reference:**  WTDC Resolutions 17 and 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2014), PP Resolution 157 (Rev. Busan, 2014) and Decision 13 (Busan, 2014) | | |

## Introduction

Considering WTDC-14 Resolutions 17 and 52, and PP-14 Resolution 157 and Decision 13 in relation to strengthening the executing agency role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, to strengthen the project execution function in the ITU, and to implement regionally approved Initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, the BDT has undertaken a significant number of actions and activities to develop and implement projects.

ITU projects are making a difference in the lives of people and offer sustainable and innovative solutions around the world to achieve development through ICT. ITU offers tailor-made projects for multi-stakeholder needs, with recognized long-standing technical expertise in the ICT field and comprehensive project management experience.

BDT has continued to improve and take the necessary steps to strengthen its project execution role, by developing and refining the necessary tools, methodologies, guidelines, templates, standards, database, website and training related to projects and project management.

The ongoing application of a results-based management approach, has also resulted in improved management, better implementation, enhanced auditing and monitoring, better accountability and the achievement of the planned results and objectives of projects.

## Overall project implementation

Since 2007, BDT has implemented a total of 211 small, medium and large projects at national, regional, interregional and global levels. 128 developing and least developed countries have benefited from the above mentioned implemented projects.

## Project portfolio

## The current ITU project portfolio has 61 ongoing projects, with an implementation budget of CHF 62,674,960 as of December 2016 (Annex 1). 18 new projects, with an implementation budget of around CHF 3 million were developed and signed in 2016 (Annex 2).

Most projects are developed for Member States, co-financed by ITU and external partners.

1. **Ongoing projects by region**

The following is a distribution of the 61 ongoing projects as of December 2016, based on regional distribution. The Asia-Pacific region currently has 17 projects, 15 in the Africa region, 6 projects in the Americas region and 10 projects in the Arab region. In addition to the regional projects there are 13 global projects.

## Ongoing projects by areas of action

The following is a distribution of the 61 ongoing projects (as of December 2016), based on the BDT areas of action. Most projects fall into the areas of action of Technology and Network Development; Regulatory and Market Environment and Capacity Building. [[1]](#footnote-1)

## Funding sources for projects

ITU Projects are funded mostly through extra-budgetary resources. Projects have four types of funding sources: Funds in Trust (FIT), ICT Development Fund (ICTDF), Voluntary contributions and Regular Budget. Most projects have at least two funding sources.

Based on the ongoing budget for the implementation of projects, 88% corresponds to Funds in Trust, 9% to the ICTDF and 3% to the BDT Operational Plan.

ICTDF funds are granted as seed money for projects in developing and least developed countries. Projects are chosen, based on their potential long-term sustainable impact and their facilitation of multi-national cooperation and partnership.

## Lessons learned, challenges and opportunities

* The project execution function of BDT is one of the strengths of BDT. To this end, the BDT continues to monitor, analyze the challenges as well as opportunities in the area of project execution. In order to promote transparency and accountability, BDT strictly follows Results Based Management guidelines as we implement a host of projects. Special attention is given to ensure that Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are clearly defined for each project. During the course of carrying out project evaluations, assessments are carried out against the set KPIs.
* It was evident that internal capacity building was needed on continuous basis as project management practices are evolving all the time. For that reason, training courses were run for the project division team who in turn delivered training to other BDT staff as a way of upgrading skills. This included staff at headquarters and those in the field.
* Owing to the importance of carrying out post-implementation review of the executed projects, several evaluation missions were undertaken during 2016. Further planning is being undertaken to plan evaluations of implemented projects in 2017. Given the overall number of ongoing projects and limited resources, BDT will continue to carry out project evaluations on a selective basis where priority will be given to those projects with high impact. The results of the first round of evaluations underscored the importance of post-implementation site visits, engagement of beneficiary communities, and impact assessments. Out of such evaluations, lessons are learnt and serve as inputs to future projects.
* Externalities such as the remaining effects of the global financial crisis, political and civil strife in some of the beneficiary countries and disruption of project implementation resulting from natural disasters continue to delay project formulation and implementation.
* Resource mobilization in order to raise more financial resources remains key. For this reason, the newly agreed funding of ITU projects by the European Commission to the tune of Euros 5’000’000 is welcome. A number of agreements have recently been concluded with development partners resulting in more co-financing arrangements being concluded.

**Conclusion**

BDT projects under various funding mechanisms continue to be a significant part of the BDT activities in terms of the budget, and volume of direct assistance provided to developing countries. Project execution has proved to be an efficient way of responding to the specific needs of ITU Member States and serves as an excellent mechanism of matching BDT seed money, external funding partners, and beneficiary countries. BDT projects under Regional Initiatives arrangement, have the potential to impact even more countries as they are designed to benefit more than one country and are even more relevant to the countries as the initiatives are identified by the Member States themselves.

The BDT is continuously innovating in order to respond to market imperatives.

For more information on projects implemented by ITU, visit: <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects/Pages/default.aspx>

**Annex 1**

**61 Ongoing projects as of December 2016**

**(CHF)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Title** | **in-cash external** | **in-cash ICT-DF** | **in-cash OP** |
| 1 | Strengthening institutional, regulatory and technical capabilities of Burundi for sustainable broadband development | 5,375 |  | 179,000 |
| 2 | Connect a School, Connect a Community in the Comoros |  |  | 150,000 |
| 3 | Smart Groundwater Management | 20,280 |  | 26,000 |
| 4 | National CIRT Establishment in The Gambia | 101,400 |  | 40,560 |
| 5 | Development of platform to foster open access to international fiber |  |  | 200,000 |
| 6 | ICT-Eye: keeping an eye on ICT data |  |  | 600,000 |
| 7 | Big Data for Measuring the Information Society | 101,400 |  | 37,000 |
| 8 | Capacity Building of Kenya Judiciary in ICT Laws Interpretation and Application | 101,400 |  | 20,280 |
| 9 | Connect a School, Connect a Community in the State of Palestine |  |  | 74,950 |
| 10 | Support for Transition from Analogue to Digital Broadcasting in the Americas Region | 304,200 |  | 60,840 |
| 11 | Natural Disaster Early Warning System - Zambia | 100,000 |  | 200,000 |
| 12 | Rural Telecommunications Development in Least Developed Countries | 202,894 | 2,056,392 |  |
| 13 | Establishment of a Cybersecurity Innovation Centre for the Arab Region | 2,028,000 | 763,035 |  |
| 14 | Connect a School, Connect a Community Initiative in the State of Palestine Project II | 40,000 | 110,000 |  |
| 15 | Regional Center ICT Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities | 50,700 | 76,050 | 25,000 |
| 16 | Broadband Wireless Network in Africa | 81,120 | 176,637 | 138,500 |
| 17 | Broadband Wireless Network - Djibouti | 866,970 |  |  |
| 18 | Broadband Wireless Network - Mali |  | 866,970 |  |
| 19 | Broadband Wireless Network - Burkina Faso | 866,970 |  |  |
| 20 | Broadband Wireless Network - Rwanda | 866,970 |  |  |
| 21 | Broadband Wireless Network in the Kingdom of Lesotho | 382,278 | 484,692 |  |
| 22 | Broadband Wireless Network - Swaziland | 461,370 | 405,600 |  |
| 23 | ICT Applications Against Ebola Disease - Phase I | 180,000 | 191,200 |  |
| 24 | Development of Satellite Communications Capacity and Emergency Communications Solutions for the Pacific Islands | 101,400 | 507,000 |  |
| 25 | Extension of Telemedicine to cover remote Areas in Zimbabwe | 291,659 | 70,980 |  |
| 26 | Fostering integration of Argentine Universities in the work of ITU (SECOM, Argentina) | 274,084 |  |  |
| 27 | National CIRT Establishment in Burundi | 138,163 |  |  |
| 28 | Support the Implementation of National Telecommunications Agency (ANATEL, Brazil) | 36,875,858 |  |  |
| 29 | Policy Development on Broadcasting | 821,194 |  |  |
| 30 | mHealth for NCDs Joint Programme | 172,429 |  |  |
| 31 | Project Be He@lthy Be Mobile - m-Diabetes - Phase 1 | 167,310 |  |  |
| 32 | Further developments to Spectrum Management System for Developing Countries (SMS4DC) software | 126,000 | 63,000 |  |
| 33 | Development of a toolkit for ICT innovation policy/governance and ICT innovation ecosystem | 142,282 |  |  |
| 34 | mHealth for non-communicable diseases in Norway | 152,252 |  |  |
| 35 | eMCM Master of Communications Management |  |  |  |
| 36 | Delivery of the Spectrum Management Training Program (SMTP) |  |  |  |
| 37 | Delivery of the Spectrum Management Training Program (SMTP) |  |  |  |
| 38 | mHealth for non-communicable diseases in Norway | 152,252 |  |  |
| 39 | Enhanced Kenya CIRT/CC | 310,000 |  |  |
| 40 | ICT Cooperation and partnership-TRA-UAE | 152,100 |  |  |
| 41 | Human Capacity Building on Internet Protocol version 6 | 36,504 |  |  |
| 42 | Master Plans for Spectrum Management | 142,247 |  |  |
| 43 | Implementing the Climate Change Adaptation Component of the Satellite Communications, Capacity, and Emergency Communications Solutions Project for the Small Island Developing States of the Pacific | 107,643 |  |  |
| 44 | ICB4PAC II | 152,100 |  |  |
| 45 | Supporting implementation of the ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives | 591,000 |  |  |
| 46 | Master Plans for Spectrum Management and Country Assistance in Spectrum Management | 156,959 |  |  |
| 47 | Master Plans for Spectrum Management (Caribbean countries) | 144,307 |  |  |
| 48 | Support for Harmonization of ICT Policies in the Caribbean | 304,200 |  |  |
| 49 | Roadmap development for digital terrestrial radio broadcasting roll-out in Thailand | 561,497 |  |  |
| 50 | Study on Spectrum Licensing of the 1800MHz band and related spectrum under the concession (Thailand) | 614,640 |  |  |
| 51 | DTTB Frequency Planning & Measurement (Thailand) | 472,801 |  |  |
| 52 | Development of a Roadmap for Mobile Television Broadcasting Deployment and Regulation in Thailand | 576,485 |  |  |
| 53 | Human Capacity Building in Telecom/ICT Statistics and Indicators | 314,223 |  |  |
| 54 | Development of a framework for introducing community TV broadcasting services in Thailand | 217,930 |  |  |
| 55 | Terrestrial Radio Broadcasting Frequency Planning in Thailand (Phase 1) | 209,876 |  |  |
| 56 | Capacity Building at Rural Internet Centres in Thailand | 222,429 |  |  |
| 57 | Study on Convergence Licensing Trends | 194,626 |  |  |
| 58 | ITU NBTC Training Programme 2016 | 52,045 |  |  |
| 59 | Development of a Detailed Frequency Plan for FM Radio Services in Thailand | 284,034 |  |  |
| 60 | Capacity Building through Centres of Excellence (CoEs) | 253,500 |  |  |
| 61 | Advisory Services to Saudi Arabia's Communication and Information Technology Commission (CITC) | 2,903,917 |  |  |
|  | **TOTAL** | **55,151,274** | **5,771,556** | **1,752,130** |
|  |  | 88% | 9% | 3% |

**Annex 2**

**Newly signed projects in 2016 (18 projects)**

**(CHF)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Title** | **Region** | **in-cash external** | **in-cash ICT-DF** | **in-cash OP** |
| 1 | Smart Groundwater Management | Arab States | 20,120 |  | 26,000 |
| 2 | National CIRT Establishment in The Gambia | Africa | 100,600 |  | 40,240 |
| 3 | ICT-Eye: keeping an eye on ICT data | World or Multi-Regional |  |  | 600,000 |
| 4 | Big Data for Measuring the Information Society | World or Multi-Regional | 100,600 |  | 37,000 |
| 5 | Capacity Building of Kenya Judiciary in ICT Laws Interpretation and Application | Africa | 100,600 |  | 20,120 |
| 6 | Support to the Caribbean Countries through a contribution to upgrading Caribbean Telecommunications Union’s (CTU) ICT Network Infrastructure | The Americas |  |  | 64,000 |
| 7 | Regional Center ICT Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities | Arab States | 50,300 | 75,450 | 25,000 |
| 8 | Policy Development on Broadcasting | The Americas | 806,443 |  |  |
| 9 | Diagnóstico y Auditoría al Proceso de Selección Objetiva para la Asignación del Espectro del MINTIC | The Americas | 82,894 |  |  |
| 10 | National CIRT Establishment | Europe | 163,174 |  |  |
| 11 | Delivery of the Spectrum Management Training Program (SMTP) | World or Multi-Regional |  |  |  |
| 12 | mHealth for non-communicable diseases in Norway | World or Multi-Regional | 151,051 |  |  |
| 13 | Development of a toolkit for ICT innovation policy/governance and ICT innovation ecosystem-II | World or Multi-Regional | 88,734 |  |  |
| 14 | Basic National Spectrum Management System | World or Multi-Regional | 88,734 |  |  |
| 15 | Further developments to Spectrum Management System for Developing Countries (SMS4DC) software | World or Multi-Regional | 88,734 |  |  |
| 16 | Human Capacity Building on Internet Protocol version 6 | Arab States | 36,216 |  |  |
| 17 | ITU NBTC Training Programme 2016 | Asia & Pacific | 35,343 |  |  |
| 18 | Development of a Detailed Frequency Plan for FM Radio Services in Thailand | Asia & Pacific | 281,793 |  |  |
|  |  | **TOTAL** | **2,195,335** | **75,450** | **812,360** |

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1. Please note that some projects fall under more than one area of action. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)