



Basic Internet Foundation
Prof. Josef Noll, Secretary General

to whom it may concern

per email

J.nr:

Archive:

Date: 14. July 2017

Request for Information (RFI) on co-operation for Digital Inclusion (DigI) in Rural Tanzania

Dear Madam or Sir,

Through this letter I would like to invite you for a partnership on Health Information Distribution in rural Tanzania. Our aim is to provide health hot-spots in the pilot villages Izazi, Mtera, Selela, and Yaeda Chini. We are seeking your collaboration to establish the connection from your IP-infrastructure, or establish the IP-connectivity together with you.

Our consortium of 10 partners from 8 countries¹ was established to bring free access to Health Information to people in rural areas. Our key concept of providing free information, the *InfoInternet*, is seen as an enabler for better health, education and decent work. Our team in Tanzania is the National Center for Medical Research (NIMR) as part of the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDEC) and the Sokoine University of Agriculture.

As you are a communication provider in the region, we would like to make use of your local expertise to connect to the health spot. We have two scenarios in mind, and like to you for information on how we together can enable the solution.

Scenario 1) You have already a tower with an IP-connection in the village. In this case, we would like to connect to your IP connection, and establish a Wifi distribution antenna and a network controller on the tower. May I ask you to provide us with your requirements to connect this antenna + network controller to the tower.

Scenario 2) You don't have connectivity into the village. In this case, we are interested to share the infrastructure costs for connecting to the villages. To our understanding, this connection would either be a radio backbone or a fibre connection, and a tower locally in the village. In case of a radio backbone, one might need to consider an autonomous repeater. As in the previous scenario, we would like to ask you for your technical requirements for such a connectivity.

¹ DigI project on "Non-discriminating access for Digital Inclusion": <http://DigI.BasicInternet.no>

Common in both scenarios would be the link from the village tower towards the health spot. Our piloted solution² consists of an autonomous hot-spot, powered by a solar panel, and providing access to basic information (*InfoInternet*), being text, pictures and local video. Please let us know if you would like to become an installation partner on-site.

The goal of the pilot is to establish a sustainable and economically viable solution for digital access in rural Tanzania. Our *InfoInternet* solution is tailored to provide minimum bandwidth, and supports a business operation of Internet provision. Not more than 2.5% of the bandwidth at the hot-spot are used for *InfoInternet*. Thus, more than 97% of the bandwidth are available for business operation. In other words, for one person paying for video, we can provide free access to information to 300-400 people.

Our pilot is foreseen to run until the end of 2019, including at least 8 villages. However, we are actively addressing the market to establish the solution in all of the unconnected villages, and to make free access to information a key topic for digital inclusion in Tanzania.

At the current point, we have launched this “Request for Information (RFI)” to explore a) your interest in a collaboration for free access to health information, and b) your existing network infrastructure in the pilot villages. If you need more information, please visit our pilot description (see footnote) or get in contact.

Kind regards

Josef Noll,
Secretary General
Basic Internet Foundation



UiO



² Pilot installation in Norway: <http://its-wiki.no/wiki/DigI:T11.2>