

Infopoverity Programme

ICT VILLAGES IN THE WORLD

HONDURAS



The first ICT village project was implemented in Honduras after the region had been affected by the hurricane Mitch.



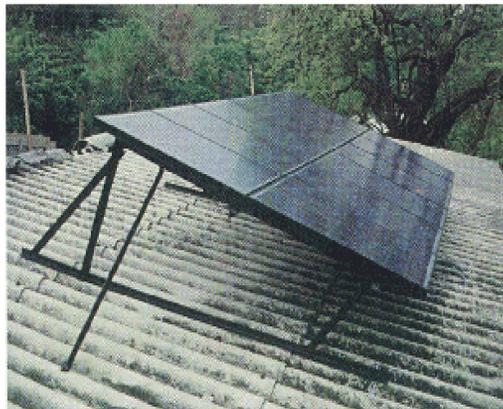
With the support of the local government and main international organizations, like UNESCO, it was possible to create two villages in San Ramon and San Francisco de Lempira, two projects of development by the means of ICT technologies in the middle of Honduras.

The first action was to provide electricity through fuel cell panels: solar energy was used because it is clean and, with the help of accumulators, able to supply alimentation for electronic devices, like satellite tubes, computers, fridges to store vaccines and other medical drugs, constantly, moreover

solar energy provides street lightning at night.

After electricity had been brought, a bidirectional satellite connection hub was created to link two villages that used to be isolated with the rest of the world.

This project is a perfect example of the way local traditions can be combined with new technologies. The computers, initially carried on the mules' backs, became efficient devices to digitalize and store memories and wisdom of the village community, making it possible to continue to keep and protect the local cultural heritage.



After equipment installation, computer courses were introduced for both young and aged people.

The whole community started learning how to apply new technologies for different activities, especially in regard to word processing and distant learning.

Several young people, who were the keenest in adopting and learning the usage of the new technologies, were chosen to teach the students of Oklahoma University Spanish courses online. The ICT village international cooperation plan implies direct participation of the local community in the projects directed to improve people's lives.



Talks are ongoing with COHCIT to revive those projects and bring to the communities the benefits of broadband e-services for development in fields such as e-learning, telemedicine and e-health, e-phytopathology and e-veterinary as support to small and micro enterprises of the Honduran communities: an innovative way to implement humanitarian projects in emerging countries for the direct benefit of disadvantaged communities.

LEBANON



In 2003 OCCAM in collaboration with Staffan de Mistura, the High representative of the UN General Secretary in South of Lebanon at that time, launched the support action for the community of Meiss al-Jabal. As a result, two digital classrooms were introduced, enabling the students to free themselves from refugee conditions in attempts to improve their future.

South Lebanon was a wide region bordered by the line of traced UN blue helmets that counted for 70 000 thousands inhabitants in the need of tranquillity, peace, and political stability.

The tragic events of 2006 worsened the situation: lots of villages had been destroyed, including Meiss al-Jabal.

It his hoped, however, with the help of the UN forces to restore stability in the process of social and economical development in the area.

To reach this goal it is, firstly, necessary to prevent the mine sweeping, which is the main obstacle for any successful project implementation. More than 340 000 mines had prevented people from coming back to their house places.



It is also important to enable the people to get in touch with the rest of the world, especially students who wish to return to their schools in South Lebanon.

OCCAM's contribution to open new internet access centres is a good initiative to re-evaluate Lebanese culture. The reconstruction of the Cinemateque National (due to OCCAM and the Council of Cinema of UNESCO) is another initiative to protect and share the local cultural heritage.

Despite the recent war, the rebuilding process is being continued and the projects keep on supporting and encouraging people, especially new generations, to develop capacities necessary to create a better future for the country.

The formula to achieve it is the following: always remember to connect three different components of our society: governments, UN system, and private participants. Their partnership implies the essence of the Global Alliance aimed to deal with the hardest challenges of our times.



TUNISIA



After meetings with the Government of the Country, the expectation of the Information Society Summit of Tunis in November 2005 organized by the UN, the Infopoverity Seminar took place in June 2004.

On this occasion, the major representatives of the International Organizations engaged in the battle against poverty, such as FAO, IFAD, ITU, UNDP, UNESCO, and the World Bank gathered at the Advisory Board to create ICT village that could be reproduced in other disadvantaged communities of all emerging countries.

The Advisory Board set three main priorities: **e-health**, **e-learning**, and **e-governance**.

Based on the previous experience, the implementation of current activities will bring further innovation as the project involves the integration of different kinds of technologies.



Due to the commitment of the Advisory Board together with the local authorities, the realization of the first demo within the community of Borj Touil in Tunisia has led to the opening of a new Centre of Community Access, the School, and the Health Centre.



Each of the sites was provided with appropriate technologies based on the people's needs.

During the World Summit on the Information Society organised by the United Nations in Tunis in November 2005 the ICT village model was certified at the UN level and was recognized as efficient device in the battle against poverty with the help of communication technologies.

