



Learning to use GPS for site surveys in Kafanchan, Nigeria

Creating the Human Network for ICT Sustainability in Rural Africa

How Inveneo is Expanding ICT Access by Building an Ecosystem of Entrepreneurs

Access to modern, relevant, and sustainable technologies can improve life for the rural poor in simple and profound ways that we, in the developed world, take for granted. Information and communications technologies (ICTs) can save lives by improving health care; increasing farmer incomes through better pricing information; and offering a better future for children by improving education.

Unfortunately, even as the productive use of ICTs has surged ahead in the developed world, many poor and rural communities in the developing world are falling further and further behind. More than two billion of the world's poorest people live in rural areas in developing countries where access to modern ICTs—or even a simple phone—is limited or non-existent.

The Challenge

To meet this challenge, Inveneo was founded as a social enterprise with the mission to provide ICT systems (hardware/software/power) for organizations that provide vital services to rural and remote communities. Inveneo's systems integrate key technologies from both well-known companies (e.g., AMD) and innovative start-ups, to create highly affordable, functional and sustainable turnkey solutions for NGOs, local governments, and private enterprises.

But suitable and relevant technology is not enough. Information and communications technologies are only truly sustainable when they are affordable and can be serviced and supported locally. The lack of in-country ICT professionals with the skills and training to install and support rural solutions is a key obstacle to achieving widespread information access, particularly in developing countries where up to 70 percent of the overall population lives in rural and remote communities.

The Solution

Inveneo is training and supporting a new generation of ICT professionals across Africa through its Inveneo Certified ICT Partner (ICIP) program - a formal training and certification process deployed with four self-reinforcing components designed for worldwide scale:

- An appropriate recruiting and selection mechanism,
- High-impact hands-on curriculum,
- Detailed certification processes, and
- Ongoing partner-support and management systems.

To serve the deep need for locally supported sustainable technologies that can improve life for the rural poor, Inveneo seeks to recruit and support up to 100 in-country ICIPs in the next two years - building a vibrant community of ICT practitioners across the continent that collaborate to deliver life-impacting technologies to thousands of communities, touching the lives of millions of people.

The Benefits

The ICIP program benefits its participants as well as the communities they serve. First, the ICIP program is an unparalleled economic opportunity for local ICT companies. Inveneo estimates that certified partners can generate more than \$2,000/month in incremental revenues. This income constitutes a major benefit in countries where many people live on less than \$1 per day.

Next, organizations serving rural and remote communities benefit from lower total costs, improved support, and access to ICTs that increase their capacity to serve. The program reduces average system installation

and support costs by as much as 70 to 80 percent and overall project costs by as much as 60 percent. Local support also decreases service response times and improves overall service levels, thus lowering overall project risks for clients.

Finally, as a not-for-profit social enterprise with a business model that combines economic sustainability with ambitious social objectives, the ICIP program is crucial to Inveneo's ability to achieve its social impact goals. Inveneo benefits directly from this program as the growth of the in-country channel helps scale and support rural access to ICTs.

The Impact

With Cisco Systems, AMD and others support, Inveneo was able to launch and grow the ICIP Program to 22 partners in 9 African countries (Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, South Africa, Mali, Guinea-Bissau, Cameroon and Nigeria). Together, Inveneo and its partners have supported more than 65 education, healthcare, economic development and relief projects in 14 African countries. These projects reach over 145 communities and more than 375,000 people with life-changing ICTs.



Inveneo seeks to expand this impact by more than doubling the number of partners and adding as many as six more countries by the end of 2008. Over the next two years, the goal is to deepen and grow local ICT capacity by recruiting and supporting up to 100 in-country partners reaching more than a thousand underserved communities.

About Inveneo

Inveneo is a non-profit social enterprise whose mission is to get the tools of information and communications technology into the hands of organizations and people who need them most—those in remote and rural communities in the developing world.

For more than two billion people living in these communities, gaining access to ICTs—either directly or via service organizations—can transform their lives in simple yet profound ways. Access to ICT can help save lives (through rural health care), provide better economic opportunities (for farmers and entrepreneurs) and provide a better future for children (through better education).

Together with our partners, Inveneo has supplied equipment to or completed more than 65 projects in 14 countries. These projects serve schools, economic development groups, telecenters, micro-finance programs, and relief camps in more than 145 communities, reaching over 375,000 people directly or indirectly with life-changing ICTs.



Nigerian partners graduate from ICIP training in Kafanchan, Nigeria.



Inveneo

972 Mission Street, Fifth Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103 USA

Phone

Main: +1.415.901.1969x1250
Fax: +1.415.449.6073

For more information

Contact: Kristin Peterson
Email: kristin.peterson@inveneo.org
Phone: +1.415.901.1969x1210

Partners and Supporters

