

Project title**INTEGRATION OF NICTS TO THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV/AIDS: OPENING OF THE *VIE POSITIVE* COMMUNITY CYBERCAFÉ****Country, region(s)/ city(cities) of intervention**

BURKINA FASO - Region Kadiogo /Ouagadougou

Executing agency

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Brief summary of the project

In recent years, the technological development of the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, in particular in the IT domain, has become an important factor of socio-economic development, offering as it does the possibility of envisaging better integration of these countries in international exchanges and the dissemination of information. A number of points can be made regarding the general context of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in Burkina Faso:

- the development of ICTs in West Africa stems from the impulsion of the programmes of the UNDP, the World Bank, and more recently the Digital Solidarity Fund;
- this process is based on the broadening of access to the Internet and enhanced technical performance of the communication networks;
- at the same time, we are experiencing increasing familiarity with information technology among the populations, especially as regards the use of Internet;
- we note an improvement of the information technology resources of the community structures thanks to the support of our technical partners;
- in consequence, the institutional use of the information technology tool by community structures and access to the Internet have markedly increased.

At the same time, a second list of remarks highlights the need to create areas providing access to ICTs for members of the community at large:

- while ICTs contribute to the information and training of actors in the fight against AIDS, this group uses it relatively rarely for awareness-raising and prevention;
- the use of ICTs presupposes a basic understanding of information technology, which at present is lacking among the population at large;
- the geographic distribution of Internet access points (cybercafés) in Ouagadougou shows the needs of the peripheral districts to be insufficiently covered;
- the costs of access to ICTs are excessive for members of the grass-roots communities, thus considerably limiting their use by the more disadvantaged populations.

These considerations lead *Vie Positive* to propose the opening of a community Internet café in the arrondissement of Boulmiougou, to facilitate access of the general community to ICTs and increase awareness of HIV/AIDS among the populations.

Beneficiary(ies)

The principal target groups are:

- Young people living in the Boulmiougou arrondissement of Ouagadougou:
Secondary school pupils living in the Boulmiougou arrondissement of Ouagadougou
- Students of the University of Ouagadougou living in the Boulmiougou arrondissement of Ouagadougou:
Workers living in the Boulmiougou arrondissement of Ouagadougou:
Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) under the care of *Vie Positive*:
- People Living with HIV (PLHIV) under the care of *Vie Positive*:
- Active members of *Vie Positive*.

General aim of the project

To facilitate access of the grass-roots communities to ICTs and increase awareness of HIV/AIDS among the populations, through the creation in Ouagadougou of a community multimedia centre / cybercafé in the arrondissement of Boulmiougou.

Specific objectives

- Objective No. 1 – Provide the community cybercafé with efficient IT hardware and comfortable office furniture for the users
- Objective No. 2 - Propose broadband Internet access to the grass-roots communities of Boulmiougou, through a WiFi connection
- Objective No. 3 - Propose affordable connection charges for these communities by reduced prices and a subscription arrangement
- Objective No. 4 - Organize individual and collective courses enabling the communities to acquire a basic understanding of information technology
- Objective No. 5 - Enable users of the cybercafé to consult websites on HIV/AIDS and association and community sites
- Objective No. 6 - Improve the care of OVC and facilitate exchanges with their correspondents/sponsors abroad, by proposing beginners' courses in information technology to the older ones among them
- Objective No. 7 - Strengthen continuous training of active members and personnel of *Vie Positive* by organizing beginners' and/or training courses in information technology

Activities

1. Acquisition of IT and reproducing/binding equipment;
2. Acquisition of office furniture;
3. Acquisition of office supplies and IT consumables;
4. Installation of equipment.
5. Installation of VSAT;
6. Organization of a computer network based on VSAT.
7. Conduct of a market survey to become familiar with connection charges in the intervention zone and assess the financial capacities of the target groups;
8. Elaboration of a price list based on this information;
9. Establishment of a subscription system.
10. Opening of an ICT training area (word processing and Internet navigation);
11. Organization of individual training sessions for the general public;
12. Organization of collective training sessions for target groups.
13. Configuration of the home page of the *Vie Positive* website on all computers of the multimedia centre;
14. Posting of information on STD/HIV/AIDS around the multimedia centre;
15. Distribution of information leaflets on STD/HIV/AIDS;
16. Design and dissemination of a register of information sites;
17. Organization of beginners' sessions in information technology for OVC;
18. Regular availability of the training facilities for sponsored OVC;
19. Guidance in the use of electronic mail by OVC for their correspondence with sponsors.
20. Organization of beginners' sessions and training in ICTs for staff;
21. Regular availability of the training facilities for staff;
22. Training of medical personnel the use of management software for medical files and treatments;
23. Training of administrative personnel in the use of accounting and financial management software;
24. Training in monitoring/evaluation software for coordinating personnel.

Expected results

- The users of the community cybercafé are offered a comfortable work area with efficient IT equipment;
- The grass-roots communities of Boulmiougou have broadband access to the Internet;
- The grass-roots communities have affordable access to the Internet;
- The grass-roots communities have acquired sufficient basic knowledge to enable them access to ICTs;
- The populations are aware and informed of the risks of exposure to HIV/AIDS through the websites of the association and other sites providing information;
- Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) have acquired sufficient basic knowledge of information technology to permit them to use the Internet in their school work or studies;
- The professional skills of the active members and personnel of *Vie Positive* are enhanced and the quality of the services is improved.

Success indicators in terms of results

- The success indicators in terms of the results will be as follows:
- Number of computers made available to users;
- State of functioning of the equipment;
- Visit rate at the multimedia centre by target group;
- Level of use of the computers available;
- Proportion of OVC taken into care vs OVC obtaining benefit from training;
- Proportion of PLHIV taken into care vs PLHIV obtaining benefit from training;
- Proportion of active members vs active members obtaining benefit from training;
- Level of satisfaction of users, PLHIV, OVC, active members;
- Level of knowledge and skills of users, PLHIV, OVC, active members;
- Level of information of users, PLHIV, OVC, active members regarding STD/HIV/AIDS;
- Number of months necessary for amortization of equipment;
- Number of months necessary for financial autonomy of the project.

Long-term vision/ Sustainability

Generally speaking, *Vie Positive* has regularly developed technical and financial multi-partnerships in both the public and private sector for implementation of its projects, with a view to mobilizing resources of various origins and promoting exchanges of experience. This partner network will thus be drawn upon to ensure the maintenance, growth and renewal of information technology equipment and servicing of the multimedia centre. Sustainability of the project will also be assured through income generated by multimedia centre activities, to permit *Vie Positive* to take over personnel costs and the main operational expenses as of the second year of operation. At the end of the financing period, *Vie Positive* will be able to take over these charges in full. *Vie Positive* will have opened a prevention, early detection and treatment centre in the province, and the possibility of extending the project to this zone can be envisaged.

Project title**AIDSETI/DSF INTEGRATION OF NICTs IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS****Country, region(s)/ city(cities) of intervention**

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Executing agency

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Brief summary of the project

The project targets the reduction of the digital divide existing between the countries of the North and South. In a context afflicted by the AIDS pandemic and the extreme precariousness of the living conditions of the populations and specifically the beneficiaries of our services (community, medical, etc.) the integration of NICTs into this action offers a ray of hope. The applications foreseen by the project will make quality prevention services accessible and available and help build the operational capacities of the association and its members.

Beneficiary(ies)

Target groups: actors in the fight against AIDS:

- beneficiaries of the centre (PLHIV);
- pupils and teachers;
- nursing staff;
- the population at large;
- the association personnel.

General aim of the project

To provide access of the population to the new information technologies, in particular in respect of the fight against HIV/AIDS

Specific objectives

Objective No. 1 - Strengthen the capacities of the association

Objective No. 2 - Ensure better coordination between community stakeholders, public health structures and the administration active in the fight against AIDS

Objective No. 3 - Make services in respect of HIV management accessible through telemedicine and distance training

Objective No. 4 – Development of the cyber-community

Activities**Expected results**

- the association's operational capacities are reinforced;
- improved coordination between the association, the actors in the fight against HIV, public health structures and the administration
- a minimum of 10,000 people benefiting from the ICTs and health services;
- The community internet café is functional and attended by at least 1000 people affected by HIV and their families

Success indicators in terms of results

- 100% of the equipment has been acquired and is functional;
- coordination between the association, the actors in the fight against HIV, public health structures and the administration is reinforced throughout the duration of the project;
- 30% out of an estimated 10,000 have benefited from the ICTs and health services;
- 30% of an estimated 10,000 have visited the community internet café in the course of the project.

Long-term vision/ Sustainability

To ensure sustainability of the project we envisage making appeals to the authorities and technical and financial partners. Diversification of financing sources by sharing the costs of the project between several partners, such that withdrawal of one partner does not threaten the project. The achievements of the project will attract new partners. In the event that the project is replicated, we undertake to broaden of field of action by diversifying the sources, involving the local community and using the existing VSAT for the less remote localities.