

Information Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D)

Working Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

July 30, 2014

1. Background

Historically, Information Communication Technology (ICT) penetration in Myanmar has been low. Availability of network coverage, SIM cards, and electrical supply has been poor country-wide. Now, with the opening of the market for ICTs, including increased supply of SIM cards and expected construction of new cell phone towers, ICT is beginning to be more accessible to the general population. This has grown rapidly in Yangon and other urban areas, and more slowly but noticeably throughout the country.

ICT has been used worldwide in humanitarian and development work to improve coordination, mapping, information dissemination, access to knowledge and services, monitoring and evaluation, and more. Because of the shifting ICT landscape, there is new and sudden opportunity to use ICT in development and humanitarian work in Myanmar. There are numerous stakeholders in both ICT and humanitarian and development work, including government, global governance organizations, non-government organizations, the private sector, and the people of Myanmar as a whole. Each of these stakeholders brings different priorities, perspectives, and experiences in these fields, and close coordination, communication and sharing between stakeholders can enable ICT to catalyze development and humanitarian work to more effectively and efficiently improve the lives of the people of Myanmar.

The ICT4D Working group has been established under the inter-agency Information Management Network in May 2014 to bring together stakeholders in ICT4D to promote the responsible, productive and coordinated use of ICT4D in line with best practices.

2. Objectives

The ICT4D Working Group's objectives are as follows.

1. Develop and share best practices, standards and approaches for ICT4D in the Myanmar context.
 - a. Share the work that members are currently doing and lessons learned
 - b. Codify and disseminate these practices, standards and approaches among group members and more widely, in Myanmar and globally
2. Share tools and approaches for improving the use of ICT in development projects
3. Collaborate on development of common platforms or projects in line with opportunities which advance the understanding and use of ICT in strengthening humanitarian response and development activities.
4. Act as an interagency focal point, internationally as well as in Myanmar, for ICT4D coordination and communication.

5. Promote ICT4D for interagency openness and transparency, especially through the use of open sharing platforms.
6. Advocate for policies and use of standards that enable efficient and effective use of ICT4D in support of humanitarian and development activities.
7. Promote access to ICT4D at all levels, especially broader use throughout Myanmar.

3. Structure and Membership

The ICT4D Working Group is a standing working group under the inter-agency IM Network and will report back to the IM Network on its activities and progress.

It will be open to representatives from all actors involved in ICT4D, including NGOs, UN agencies, donors and government agencies, and the private sector. The Working Group will actively work to engage stakeholders across all relevant sectors to ensure a broad base for coordination.

The ICT4D Working Group may establish time-bound task groups as required to work on specific tasks and report back regularly to the ICT4D Working Group on their activities and achievements.

The ICT4D working group will meet monthly, on the last Wednesday of the month at 10 am at MIMU's office. Pact will chair the working group. Minutes and other documentation relevant to the working Group will be disseminated directly to ICT4D members and shared through a dedicated page on the MIMU website.

The Working Group will also seek to use innovative methods to promote participation of interested stakeholders in other areas of Myanmar outside of Yangon. A priority for the group will be to be inclusive of rural areas and stakeholders working outside of the urban centers.

Working group members will exchange information between meetings through the ICT4D mailing list and google group, which will host development/humanitarian ICT-related resources and a list of relevant organization activities and contact information, updated on an ongoing basis.

4. Expected Outputs

The ICT4D working group will take on projects in line with the stated objectives above.

Initial priorities/outputs will be as follows:

- Regular meetings of the membership and dissemination of meeting minutes,
- Advising on appropriate and innovative mechanisms to better share information with field-based practitioners, including making capacity building opportunities more accessible through the use of ICT and linking practitioners in different areas to each other,
- Compilation of ICT4D activities taking place in Myanmar,
- Population of the ICT4D web space on the MIMU site with resources that can help members and non-members further their ICT4D work,

- Identification of the main challenges to progressing ICT4D in Myanmar and which of those challenges the working group can collaborate to overcome, and an action plan for doing so,
- Contribution towards geodata collection, mapping of network accessibility and other initiatives for information sharing supporting the effectiveness of humanitarian and development activities.