

Strategic Assessment of ICT Options

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Assessment of ICT Options

Objectives

- Using the projects identified by each organization, teams will
 - Identify the strengths and weaknesses of each ICT option to address the challenges being faced keeping in mind the local context and capacity
 - Determine which option(s) appear most appropriate in each case

Presentations

Presenters (in 3-4 minutes)

- What ICT solutions do you recommend?
- How did you come to that conclusion?

Listeners

- Is there anything missing from their assessment?
- Do you have any recommendations for an alternative approach?
- Other constructive feedback?

Intersection of skills and solutions

- In institutional teams, use colored dots to plot your staff capacity against each ICT option on your project's table.
 - No current capacity
 - Limited/basic capacity (can use basic features)
 - Intermediate capacity (able to use most features, but not able to train others)
 - Advanced capacity (able to create/manage content and train others)

You may also consider writing H or F on stickers to represent home office and field office capacity.

Other potentially useful tools

ICT Infrastructure Checklist Options & Usages

- Can be used to assess the current ICT infrastructure of target groups

Decision Making & Planning Framework

- Reverse logframe-style planning tool that can be used to plan activities or interventions by answering a number of specific questions starting with Why?

ICT Infrastructure Checklist	Options	Additional Details/Information
What types of computers are being used? - How many computers do you have? - How many are currently operating? - How old are they? - How do you primarily use this device? (play games, word processing, accounting, etc.)	Desktop Laptop Netbook Thin client Low-cost PC – Classmate, XO, etc. Tablet – iPad, Samsung Galaxy, etc. PDA eReader – Kindle, Nook, etc.	
What operating system is being used?	Windows XP, ME, Vista, 7, etc. Mac OS Linux – Ubuntu, Red Hat, CentOS, SUSE, etc.	
What type of internet connection is being used? - How fast is your connection? - Do you have any bandwidth restrictions? - Is your connection set up for a single user or multiple users? - How many computers are connected to the internet? - How do you primarily use the internet (social media, news, educational resources, etc.)?	Dial-up ISDN DSL/ADSL Cable WiFi/WiMax Cellular (GPRS, EDGE, EVDO, G3, etc.) Satellite - VSAT	
What type of mobile phone do you use/have access to? - Is it pre-paid or post-paid? - If it is pre-paid, how frequently do you change SIM cards? - Does it cost you to receive SMS? - How do you primarily use this device (inbound/outbound calls, SMS, agricultural services, etc.)?	Basic phone Smart phone	
If you have a smart phone, what OS does it have?	iPhone Android BlackBerry	

	Windows Mobile Symbian Other	
What is your primary source of electricity? - How reliable is your electricity source? (i.e. How frequent are blackouts? How many hours can you use it before power runs out?)	Public utility Generator Solar Other	
If you own a radio, what type is it? - How it is powered? (battery, solar, crank) - How do you primarily use this device (news, entertainment, educational shows, etc.)?	AM/FM Shortwave Satellite	
If you own a TV, what type of connection do you have? - How do you primarily use this device (news, entertainment, educational shows, etc.)?	Broadcast Cable Satellite None (used only with DVD/VHS player)	
If you own a video player, what format can it play? - How do you primarily use this device (watch movies, educational videos, etc.)?	DVD VCD VHS	
If you own an MP3 player, what type of display does it have? - How do you primarily use this device (listen to music, educational programs, etc.)?	Screenless Small screen (1-2 lines of text) Standard screen (monochrome or color?)	
Do you own/use a gaming system? If so, what type? - How often do you use it?	Playstation (1, 2, or 3) Xbox or Xbox 360 Nintendo (Wii, GameCube 64, Super, NES) Handheld (Nintendo DS, Sony PSP, etc.) Other	
Other:		

For more information

- Contact me on jwoodard@fhi360.org
- Visit the USAID ICT for Ag community online at: communities.usaidallnet.gov/ictforag/home