

 WACC*taking sides*

**FINAL REPORT FORM
for
WACC-SUPPORTED PROJECT**

This document is for end-of-project reporting. It has two parts: a) Narrative Report; b) Financial Report.

You will need to refer to your Project Application Form, the Agreement with WACC, and your bank statement when completing this form. Please return it with supporting documents and materials to WACC. Please answer the questions as fully as possible.

THE NARRATIVE REPORT

1. Project Title: (as appeared in the Agreement)	“Empowerment e-communities through technology for poverty alleviation”
2. Project Reference Number: (as appeared in the Agreement)	728
3. Full Name of Project Holder:	Ecumenical Centre for Research Education and Advocacy (ECREA)
4. Full Address:	GPO Box 15473 189 Rt. Sukuna Rd, Suva
5. Name of Country:	Fiji Islands
6. Period the project was implemented: (from month/year to month/year)	November 2008 – September 2009
7. Project Grant received:	Amount in local currency: Amount in Euros or US\$ (circle as appropriate):
8. Date(s) Project Grant(s) were received: (as in your bank statement) 1 st remittance 2 nd remittance	

9. Activities

Give a summary of the major activities carried out during the reporting period in comparison with those planned. In case of changes from the original objectives, please explain the reasons.

Please describe in detail the activities of the project that were implemented such as content of production, programmes, workshops or training

9.1 If the project is a workshop, seminar, or consultation, please attach the list of participants, the themes/topics of their speeches/papers, and any statement, declaration, or book published.

9.2 If the project is primarily purchase of equipment, please describe what kind of impact / change the equipment is bringing to the beneficiaries.

The WACC project support started in November 2008 and continued until September 2009. The support comes under the thematic area of *Communication and poverty* and the project titled “Empowering e-communities through Technology for poverty alleviation” From the outset the project has provided the needed space for community people to talk about New Technologies, its applications and how it could help out addressing their needs in terms of community building as well as community development.

There were some changes made to the original timeline and work plan for the year due to some changes in the overall ECREA Organisational schedules. There were also changes to the approaches made to the actual community intervention, in the initial plan we had notified that we would be targeting a consistent group of youth, after the first visit we realized the importance of including adults and members of the community if a concept of such importance to be introduced. Probably, after this project we would be in a better position to actually pick out community members who could undergo some capacity building in relation toward Telecentre Activities.

From the initial 8 planned activities with 2 communities throughout the year, the project turned out with extra 14 activities and 3 more rural communities, also connected to the People’s Community Network¹ (PCN)

The Community Telecentre project attended 4 monthly meetings of PCN where the concept was introduced and opportunities was presented with possibilities of setting up of a new market system . A system that work towards the current need of both rural and urban areas.

Outlined below are the activities carried out throughout the year with dates and contents of the workshop. Also included the number of people attending, gender, status as well as

¹ Peoples Community Network - an organization formed by network of people living in informal settlements around the greater urban and peri-urban areas of Lami, Suva and Nausori corridor. The organization was formed in 2007 through the work of ECREA to look after the welfare people living in informal settlements – on 3 keys areas such as land tenure, housing and education.

ethnic identification. The total number of participants that attended workshops are only recorded.

1. November 17th – 21st 2008

Wailoku (Marata) – *Introducing Telecentre concept*

- Roles and meanings, links to community life and development
- Telecentre and poverty – roles of ICT in poverty reduction
- Community Participation and Telecentre
- Community assets (knowledge) mapping
- Accessing information in relations to issues faced linking with knowledge mapping
- Computer applications

Attendance: 20 participants per day average

Gender: 16 female, 4 male

Status: 13 youth, 7 adults

Ethnic ID: 7 Fijian, 13 Others (Solomoni's descendants)

Area: Peri-urban

2. December 1st – 5th

Waisasavu – *Introducing Telecentre concept*

- Roles and meanings, links to community life and development
- Community Telecentre and computers
- Community participation
- Community assets (knowledge) mapping
- Accessing information in relations to issues faced linking with knowledge mapping
- Computer applications session

Attendance: 35 participants per day average

Gender: 15 female, 20 male

Status: 12 youths, 15 adults, 8 School children

Ethnic ID: 35 Fijian

Area: Rural

3. 23rd – 27th February

Wailoku (Biliwai) - *Linking community issues to Telecentre*

- Roles and meanings, links to community life and development
- Effective Internet searching technique
- Computer applications session

Attendance: 17 participants per day average

Gender: 7 female, 10 male

Status: 16 youths, 1 adult

Ethnic ID: 10 Fijian, 7 Others (Solomoni's descendants)

Area: Peri-urban

4. 2nd – 6th March

Waisasavu – *Linking community issues to Telecentre*

- Setting up Committee to work toward Community Telecentre

- Identify community issues process for Telecentre (*History, Market, Herbal and Land Boundaries*)
 - Community members (committee) roles toward own Telecentre set up (who is doing what and timeframe)
 - Computer applications session
- Attendance: 22 participants per day average
 Gender: 12 female 10 male,
 Status: 9 youths, 13 adults
 Ethnic ID: 10 Fijian, 7 Others (Solomoni's descendants)
 Area: Peri-urban
 PLWD: 1

5. 6th March

Waila - *Introducing Telecentre concept*

Attendance: 12 participants
 Gender: 7 female 5 male,
 Status: 3 youths, 9 adults
 Ethnic ID: 12 Fijian
 Area: Peri-urban

6. 28th March

Duavata Community (PCN) - *Introducing Telecentre concept*

- computer application session
 Attendance: 45 participants
 Gender: 28 female 17 male
 Status: 12 youths, 33 adults
 Ethnic ID: 3 Indo-Fijian, 42 Fijian
 Area: Peri-urban (Informal Settlements)

7. 22nd April

Waisasavu - *Follow up Visit*

- setting up email and Blog – waisasavu@gmail.com <http://waisasavu.wordpress.com>
 - content in the making
 - computer application session
 Attendance: 25 participants
 Gender: 10 female 15 male
 Status: 9 youths, 16 adults
 Ethnic ID: 25 Fijian
 Area: Rural
 PLWD: 1

8. 23rd April

Wailoku - *Follow up Visit*

- computer application session
 - follow through with issues – Unemployment
 Attendance: 10 participants

Gender: 7 female 3 male
Status: 8 youths, 2 adults
Ethnic ID: 25 Fijian
Area: Peri-urban

9. 25th April

Matuku Community (PCN) - *Introducing Telecentre concept*

- computer application session
Attendance: 30 participants
Gender: 12 female 18 male
Status: 9 youths, 21 adults
Ethnic ID: 4 Indo-Fijian, 36 Fijian
Area: Peri-urban (Informal Settlements)

10. 11th – 15th May

Waisasavu – *Linking community issues to Telecentre*

- Follow up with community issues
- *Prep community for dialogue with another community – land boundaries*
- *Land Boundaries Commission facilitates dialogue*
- *Telecentre as marketing tool*
- Computer applications session
Attendance: 32 participants per day average
Gender: 15 female 17 male,
Status: 8 youths, 24 adults
Ethnic ID: 32 Fijian
Area: Rural
PLWD: 1

11. 18th – 22nd May

Wailoku (Korolailai) – *Linking community issues to Telecentre*

- Roles and meanings, links to community life and development
- Telecentre and poverty alleviation - ICT
- Computer applications session
- *Community issues – market handicraft* <http://korolailai.wordpress.com>;
korolailai@gmail.com
Attendance: 15 participants per day average
Gender: 12 female, 3 male
Status: 13 youths, 2 adults
Ethnic ID: 10 Fijian, 7 Others (Solomoni's descendants)
Area: Peri-urban

12. 30th May

Nanuku (PCN) - *Introducing Telecentre concept*

Attendance: 35 participants

Gender: 20 female 15 male
Status: 5 youths, 30 adults
Ethnic ID: 2 Indo-Fijian, 33 Fijian
Area: Peri-urban (Informal Settlements)

13. 9th June – Wailoku (Korolailai) – Follow up Visit

-Content Management for Blog

Attendance: 15 participants
Gender: 10 female 5 male
Status: 5 youths, 10 adults
Ethnic ID: 15 Fijian
Area: Peri-urban (Informal Settlements)

14. 11th June – Waisasavu – Follow Up visit

- Resource mapping

Attendance: 18 participants
Gender: 7 female 11 male
Status: 5 youths, 13 adults
Ethnic ID: 18 Fijian
Area: Rural
PLWD: 1

15. 13th June – Waila – Follow up Visit

Telecentre fundraiser – 900.00 collected!!!

Telecentre as marketing tool

Attendance: 25 participants
Gender: 14 female 11 male
Status: 17 youths, 8 adults
Ethnic ID: 25 Fijian
Area: Peri-urban

16. 27th June

Lagilagi (PCN)

- Computer application session

Attendance: 45 participants
Gender: 23 female 22 male
Status: 15 youths, 30 adults
Ethnic ID: 8 Indo-Fijian, 37 Fijian
Area: Peri-urban (Informal Settlement)

17. 13th – 17th July – Waisasavu

Telecentre – way forward for community

Fundraising – Budgeting (Family)

Attendance: 23 participants average per day
Gender: 9 female 14 male
Status: 11 youths, 12 adults

Ethnic ID: 23 Fijian
Area: Rural
PLWD: 1

18. 20th – 24th July – Wailoku

Linking community issues to Telecentre

- Roles and meanings, links to community life and development
- Telecentre and poverty alleviation - ICT
- Computer applications session
- *Way forward for community*

Attendance: 12 participants per day average

Gender: 9 female, 3 male

Status: 10 youths, 3 adults

Ethnic ID: 4 Fijian, 8 Others (Solomoni's descendants)

Area: Peri-urban

19. 28th July – Waila

– Follow up Visit

Budgeting toward Telecentre

Attendance: 10 participants

Gender: 4 female 6 male

Status: 3 youths, 7 adults

Ethnic ID: 10 Fijian

20. 30th July – Ucuinamono

Roles and meanings, links to community life and development

- Computer applications session

Attendance: 8 participants

Gender: 2 female 6 male

Status: 8 adults

Ethnic ID: 8 Fijian

21. 17th – 21st August

Telecentre Managers Training – ITS, Suva

Attendance: 10 participants

Gender: 4 female 6 male

Status: 3 youths 7 adults

Ethnic ID: 9 Fijian 1 (Solomoni's descendents)

PLWD: 1

22. 2nd – 4th September – Nakavika, Namosi

Roles and meanings, links to community life and development

- Computer applications session
- *Way forward for community*

Attendance: 30 participants average per day
Gender: 12 female 18 male
Status: 10 students 11 youths, 9 adults
Ethnic ID: 30 Fijian

Introducing the concept

How it could help to respond to their community issues and needs, community voices raised directly to service providers such as government departments via the use of emails and even drafting and writing of letters. Information accessed through government websites on services offered. Introduce computer and different applications, the internet tools in response to their issues raised, such as unemployment etc. Natural Resources for villages, how could this link to Telecentre?

Connecting community issues to the Telecentre.

In Wailoku, their major issue is unemployment – identifying skills set, setting a blog, for their names age and skills. Also set up something like the “e-chutney project” where some of these youths are very good bakers, craftsmanship, rugby players. It would be very good if a good CMS website to be set for Telecentres Fiji Wide, this is where they connect to service providers etc.

For the Naitasiri community, they have identified that they could link TC to their traditional craft of healing. They have resources and skills to heal breast cancer, cervical cancer and other NCD's. They have proof clearly written, signed, just wondering what will the Ministry of Health deals with this if the word goes out. So a village committee has been set up to look into Telecentre issues and how they could set up one. Also it will capture their stories and oral history from how many generations, as there will be consistency in their history if its written down and agreeable to all community members.

Waila Community (Hookers Subdivision) is also interested in the idea of setting up one to serve their needs as well as needs of others surrounding them. Help out in marketing their produce and also act as an Office Peoples Community Network – will be incorporating the concept for their office

Way forward for communities

Initiate discussions on fundraising ideas and concepts for a Telecentre. It comes down to look out for funders who support such initiatives and also for communities themselves to work out a formula as it will benefit the community as a whole. 2 communities are going ahead with fundraising towards their own Telecentre.

Computer Applications

- help Telecentre members review some of the basic tools in the computer and information technology system
- provide some suggestions for using computers and software in telecenter management
- provide basic material for training and orientation sessions for people in the community who want to obtain the benefits of information technology.

Telecentre Managers Training

Module 1. Introductions and roles of Community Telecentres in communities

Module 2. Making computers work for you

eGov approach towards Telecentres in Fiji

Module 3: Roles of Telecentre Manager

Module 4: Blogsite training using wordpress

Module 5: Basic guidelines for Telecentre financial sustainability

Governemnt Information Retrieval Centre (GIRC) visitation

Different ways to skin the cat – way forward for Fiji Telecentres

Participants to the Telecentre Managers Training are as follows:

Manueli Viakara, Ruveni Ravuisu, Reijeli Kanamoli, Sitiveni Loko, Vitalina

Duvuduvukula, Mikaele Rokavatu, Mosese, Sulita Otinaivalu, Resina Teana and Vilikesa Rokosuka.

10. Was the project successful? (If possible, please give measurable indicators.)

The project was successful in many ways:

- Provided a community in Waisasavu, Naitasiri in the highlands of Fiji the space to sit with some communities they have been in conflict with for the last many years in terms of land boundaries. The meeting was facilitated by the Native Lands Commission of Fiji.
- In some ways bridging the digital, where community members have the ability of accessing information from the comfort of their own community
- The Community Telecentre act as tool to challenge oppressive structures of society and also a way to safeguard community people not to be easily swayed.
- Communication between the producer and the buyer.
- Infusion of traditional knowledge
- Sources of knowledge within community as its contribution to the World Information Society.
- Contribution to the eGov portal from community members
- Accessing government and other services offered online – saving people time and money to come all the way to service centres.

11. Project Beneficiaries

Please describe the actual direct beneficiaries and indicate the number of women and men. Please also mention any indirect beneficiaries.

Total number of Men = 239

Total number of women = 255

Total = 494

12. How have the beneficiaries reacted to the programme activities? What were the impacts of the project and different effects on women and men in the project?

Most of the communities reacted positively to the activities in terms of their contribution as well as their enthusiasm to work together towards a community project such as Telecentre. Let me add that if we do not work on a process to allow people to accept changes and introduce them slowly to any innovation as such, any organization will face difficulties. Some community members will accept and some will see it as intrusion to community life.

13. Outcome and Outputs of the project: What has your project achieved and what has changed?

If your project produced media, please send a sample copy of audio/video cassettes, CD, VCD, or DVD and label it with title, duration, language used, and date of production. If you can, please send photos with informative captions (digital photos, if possible), newspaper/radio clips, homepage links, etc.

- Increase in knowledge through information accessed as some of community members are first timers in using computers and even the Online Library – which is the Internet.
- Some communities are running with the concept and are already doing their own fundraising for their own Community Telecentre
- Changes are happening in the way people think towards issues facing.
- Digitizing of oral tradition for consistency
- Opportunity to market peoples produce should the market be set up properly and Community Telecentre to be the vehicle of transforming information and communication between buyers and producers
- A lot of new learning from community level
- Opportunity in bringing community people together and plan together towards a project that will benefit them.

Also find below are some links that tells the world about the project.

ECREA Telecentre Concept
<http://ecreatc.wordpress.com>

WACC supported Telecentre connects rural communities
<http://www.waccglobal.org/component/content/article/1814:wacc-supported-telecentre-connects-rural-communities.html?Itemid=162>

14. Evaluation

14.1 What were the results of evaluating the project?

The project as mentioned above managed to reach 494 men, women and youths of Fiji and given. With the 1 year support of the project it has made some communities here in Fiji to run with concept and have gone out of their way to raise their own as most them have realized the importance of tools such as Community Telecentres. Given time and resources, Community Telecentres in Fiji should be a force to reckon with from community level.

14.2 What were the challenges, difficulties, and/or failures in carrying out the project? Please explain how you addressed these issues.

- Tools not enough as there a lot of community members - managing time for everyone to access
- Limited time of access - access unlimited in the ECREA Office unless weekends and evenings.
- Coaching support for computer users especially for community members that are computer shy.

15. Other comments, if any.

The availability and connectivity of Information Communication Technology (ICT) through Community Telecentre will only work if the community involvement in addressing some of their fundamental issues. In rural areas, Community Telecentre could respond to the land issues in terms of boundaries and how land could be better utilized for better economic returns. It should serve as a tool for empowerment in bringing community together to facilitate dialogue among them. The ability of ICT should not be glorified as some had done but missing the most important component are the members of the community that make them work. Telecentre should not be a display of equipments but technologies that respond to community needs and transform people's lives.