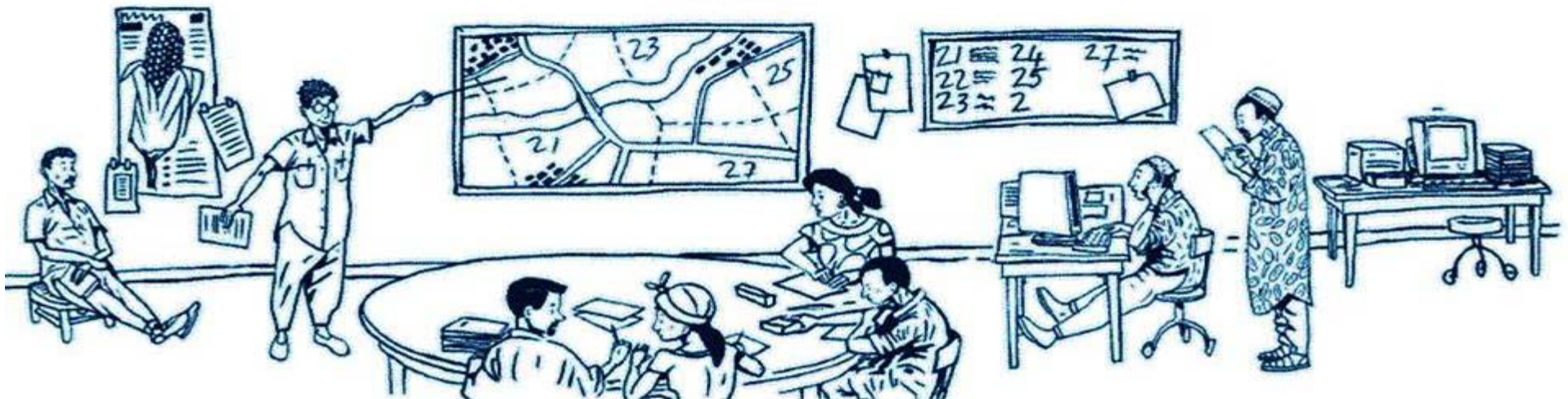


New ICTs for networking: Opportunities and Challenges

Rural women, dynamisation of networks and fight against HIV/AIDS in rural areas

Brussels, Belgium 13-17 June 2005
Sophie Treinen, GILF - FAO



Overview

- New ICTs
- Advantages and opportunities
- Constraints and challenges
- How to deal with new ICTs
- Food for thought



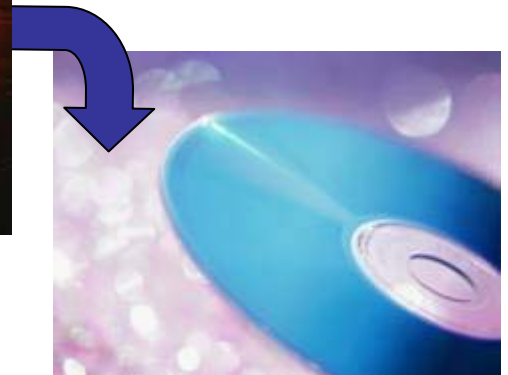
Definition of new ICTs

ICTs are considered as electronic technologies for the storing, processing, transferring of information and communication. They allow quicker more efficient exchange / processing of information.

Internet, e-mail, PCs, PDAs, mobile phones, digital cameras, networks, databases, portals and software



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Information management

Information management covers the various stages of information processing from production to storage and retrieval to dissemination towards the better working of an organization or a community; information can be from internal and external sources and in any format.



Advantages and opportunities

- Two-way, horizontal and vertical communications
- Connects geographically dispersed people
- Provision of readily accessible information
- Supports communication in various forms
- Presents information in variable formats
- Manage large volumes of data quickly and cheaply
- Avoid duplication
- Facilitate informed decision-making



Constraints and challenges

- Costs of technologies, maintenance and access
- Lack of accessible telecommunication infrastructure and electricity
- Use of proprietary technological solutions
- Lack attempts to integrate existing media and communication methods and channels
- Poor and non-participatory planning
- Lack of stakeholders involvements especially women and youth
- Need for capacity building



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New tasks, new players, new skills

Joan Rose,
Author

Paul
Chukwu,
Computer
Systems
Officer

Gertrud
Schmidt,
Librarian

Ming Qiao,
WEBMASTER

Ajsha Cook,
Publications
Officer



New jobs Webmaster,
Chief Information Officer,
Information Management
Specialist



Different jobs
computer specialists
hardware specialist
software application,
data analyst



Same jobs
Librarian



Food for thought

- Local or appropriately localised content
- Share costs appropriately
- Build on existing systems
- Address diversity
- Build capacity
- Ensure equitable access and empowerment
- Build knowledge partnerships
- Use realistic technologies:
focus on benefits not technology



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Dgroups for Dimitra network

www.dgroups.org

www.dgroups.org/groups/fao/dimitra

