

# THE FORD FOUNDATION

## Grant Reporting Instructions

The Ford Foundation requires narrative and financial reports from all grantees based on a schedule specified in the Grant Notification Letter. The Foundation recommends that the narrative portion of the report be **between 3-8 pages** long. The Foundation prefers to receive reports by e-mail to [secretary@fordfound.org](mailto:secretary@fordfound.org), whenever possible. If you do not have access to e-mail, you may submit the reports in hard copy by mail or fax. Please note that if you submit reports by e-mail, you should not also submit a hard copy.

Grantee Name: Digital Empowerment Foundation Grant Number: 1120-2078-0

Reporting Period: 1/4/13 to 31/3/14

### Narrative Report

#### Reflections

Please reflect on lessons learned, events that have been significant to your work, changes that you believe may result within the next year or so as a result of the work conducted under the grant, ways in which you believe that the work performed will help the organization achieve its long-term goals, and/or challenges or surprises you have encountered during the most recent reporting period.

- In the last one year, Guna 'Wireless in Unlicensed Band' has reached from 28 nodes to 75 nodes. More than 5 access points have established and connected 75 users.
- The project has created opportunities in Guna district and resolved connectivity issue in remote parts of the district.
- It has provided connectivity to range of users, including schools, small enterprises, gaming zones, SBI kiosk, college students, institutions, cyber cafes; shop owners and individuals.
- Few of class A ISP providers such as NSTPL Broadband Solutions, RailTel Corporation of India changed their policy and offering us to take their franchises on revenue sharing basis; in this partnership they will provide us bandwidth through their available the existing infrastructure; and we will be providing the last mile connectivity via our wireless infrastructure.
- On the basis of success story of Guna wireless network, Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY), Govt. of India has called to submit the similar kind of project for Shivpuri District, Madhya Pradesh.
- Organized technical workshops to bring challenges and share the best practices. Also organized the national-level consultation in order to advocate towards rural internet service provider (ISP).
- The Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), special purpose vehicle (SPV) company created by USO Fund of Department of Telecommunication (DoT), has invited DEF's Director to be a member of the advisory for the National Optic Fiber Network project. The NOFN is commissioned by DoT and USOF to connect each of the 250,000 Panchayats with fibre with 100 MBPS bandwidth. DEF's invitation has been instrumental from the point of view that beyond Panchayat, it is advising the Wireless network technology and use of free spectrum to connect every village.
- The Open Technology Institute (OTI) conducted workshop at Dharamshala and invited us to participate and share our experiences within the others communities to studying their social and economic impacts – particularly for poor, rural, and other underserved constituencies.
- Invited by Open Technology Institute (OTI), Washington to organize the workshop on 'Wireless 4 Communities: Linking rural communities of India through unlicensed (free) spectrum' at the International Summit on Community Wireless Network held from 2-4 October 2013 at Berlin, Germany. The session was focus to understand the importance of free spectrum for public good and advocacy towards utilizing it for social development; to understand the scope and opportunities of unlicensed spectrum in India and other developing countries and to explore and understand the rights and ethics challenges and issues around unlicensed spectrum.
- Increased policy interventions & policy options protecting free spectrum for wireless measured by citation of DEF's wireless projects in policy documents Organized the national consultation on "Connecting rural communities of India through Unlicensed spectrum" on the occasion of

Manthan Award Asia Pacific 2013 in December 2013. The consultation is an effort to understand the importance of unlicensed band and how wire and wireless network can be used together to provide uniform internet access across the country.

- Receiving demand from various organizations; government departments, and district/block officers to implement the wireless network in their community. For example – Ministry of Minority Affairs (Govt. of India) asked to implement the wireless network at Chandauli Panchayat in Umrain Block of Alwar District (Rajasthan) under its project 'Minority Cyber Gram Yojna'; block development officer from West Champaran, Uttarakhand based organisation Avani has asked to provide connectivity in their region using wireless mesh network.
- Barefoot engineers established the wireless mesh network at School for Democracy campus located at Bhim district of Rajasthan and Sapna NGO located at Alwar district of Rajasthan.
- Created two project films and 8 case-studies and developed a project website (guna.wforc.in)
- Provided ICT training and vocational training to the communities, so that they can become entrepreneurs and able to improve their livelihoods.
- Provided customized services as per customers' need which in result enabled customers not only fulfill their needs but also within their estimated cost.

## Activities/Issues Addressed

For project support grants, please comment on the work done in regard to the proposed activities in the grant proposal. For general support grants, please comment on developments on the issues addressed in the grant proposal.

### *Activities/Issues Addressed in Proposal*

#### **Expansion of the Nodes:**

- In the last one year, Guna 'Wireless in Unlicensed Band' has reached from 28 nodes to 75 nodes. More than 5 access points have established and have connected 75 users.
- The project has created opportunities in Guna district and resolved connectivity issue in remote parts of the district.
- It has provided connectivity to range of users, including schools, small enterprises, gaming zones, SBI kiosk, college students, institutions, cyber cafes; shop owners and individuals.

#### **Capacity Building & Training**

- Organized technical workshops to bring challenges and share the best practices. Also organized the national-level consultation in order to advocate towards rural internet service provider (ISP).
- Community awareness workshops are one of the major components. Four-hour class capacity building programme on digital literacy is the ongoing programme component.
- So far, 3 Training of Trainers (ToT), 3 Trainee and 35 user-community workshops organized to strengthen wireless community in Guna.

#### **Policy Advocacy**

- The Open Technology Institute (OTI) conducted workshop at Dharamshala, Uttarakhand and invited us to participate and share our experiences within the others communities to studying their social and economic impacts – particularly for poor, rural, and other underserved constituencies.
- Invited by Open Technology Institute (OTI), Washington to organize the workshop on 'Wireless 4 Communities: Linking rural communities of India through unlicensed (free) spectrum' at the International Summit on Community Wireless Network held from 2-4 October 2013 at Berlin, Germany. The session was focus to understand the importance of free spectrum for public good and advocacy towards utilizing it for social development; to understand the scope and opportunities of unlicensed spectrum in India and other developing countries and to explore and understand the rights and ethics challenges and issues around unlicensed spectrum.
- Increased policy interventions & policy options protecting free spectrum for wireless measured by citation of DEF's wireless projects in policy documents.
- Organized the national consultation on "Connecting rural communities of India through Unlicensed spectrum" on the occasion of Manthan Award Asia Pacific 2013 in December 2013). The consultation is an effort to understand the importance of unlicensed band and how wire and wireless network can be used together to provide uniform internet access across the

country.

- Published various articles in national newspaper (such as Live Mint) advocating towards access to information, need of rural ISPs in India.

#### **Project Film & Website**

- Created two project films and 8 case-studies and developed a project website (guna.wforc.in)

#### ***Activities/Issues Addressed***

- In the last one year, Guna 'Wireless in Unlicensed Band' has reached from 28 nodes to 75 nodes. More than 5 access points have established and connected 75 users. Thus, it has created 75 access points in remote areas of the district to provide last mile connectivity. These access points have computers, internet connectivity and trainer for communities, especially those who are economically disadvantaged, women, and other minority communities. Thus, community members can access information as per need, receive training about how to use computer, internet and retrieve information about their right and services.
- So far, 3 Training of Trainers (ToT), 3 Trainee and 35 user-community workshops organized to strengthen wireless community in Guna Through this project, we have created several access points in remote areas of the district to provide last mile connectivity. These access points have computers, internet connectivity and trainer for communities, especially those who are economically disadvantaged, women, and other minority communities. Thus, community members can access information as per need, receive training about how to use computer, internet and retrieve information about their right and services.
- The service provided under this programme is customized as per need of customer. Thus, it enables customers not only fulfill their needs but also within their estimated cost.
- The project provides network training to community members to make them self-sustainable either to get any job-opportunity in industry or be a network engineer with us
- Scale & number of community participation; number of users including tribal locals capable to use wireless access infrastructure & facilities for self-development; positive response & participation of the local communities including tribal community
- Provided ICT training and vocational training to the communities, so that they can become entrepreneurs and able to improve their livelihoods.
- Receiving demand from various organizations; government departments, and district/block officers to implement the wireless network in their community. For example – Ministry of Minority Affairs (Govt. of India) asked to implement the wireless network at Chandauli Panchayat in Umrain Block of Alwar District (Rajasthan) under its project 'Minority Cyber Gram Yojna'; block development officer from West Champaran, Uttarakhand based organisation Avani has asked to provide connectivity in their region using wireless mesh network.
- Created two project films and 8 case-studies and developed a project website (guna.wforc.in)

#### **Indicators of Success**

Please compare the original proposed indicators of success with the results achieved to date. Comment on any variances you feel require explanation.

#### ***Indicators of Success Identified in Proposal***

- In the last one year, Guna 'Wireless in Unlicensed Band' has reached from 28 nodes to 75 nodes. More than 5 access points have established and have connected 75 users. Thus, it has created 75 access points in remote areas of the district to provide last mile connectivity. These access points have computers, internet connectivity and trainer for communities, especially those who are economically disadvantaged, women, and other minority communities. Thus, community members can access information as per need, receive training about how to use computer, internet and retrieve information about their right and services.
- On the basis of success story of Guna wireless network, Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY), Govt. of India has called to submit the similar kind of project for Shivpuri District, Madhya Pradesh.
- The Open Technology Institute (OTI) conducted workshop at Dharamshala and invited us to participate and share our experiences within the others communities to studying their social and

economic impacts – particularly for poor, rural, and other underserved constituencies.

- Invited by Open Technology Institute (OTI), Washington to organize the workshop on 'Wireless 4 Communities: Linking rural communities of India through unlicensed (free) spectrum' at the International Summit on Community Wireless Network held from 2-4 October 2013 at Berlin, Germany. The session was focus to understand the importance of free spectrum for public good and advocacy towards utilizing it for social development; to understand the scope and opportunities of unlicensed spectrum in India and other developing countries and to explore and understand the rights and ethics challenges and issues around unlicensed spectrum.
- So far, 3 Training of Trainers (ToT), 3 Trainee and 35 user-community workshops organized to strengthen wireless community in Guna
- The Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), special purpose vehicle (SPV) company created by USO Fund of Department of Telecommunication (DoT), has invited DEF's Director to be a member of the advisory for the National Optic Fiber Network project. The NOFN is commissioned by DoT and USOF to connect each of the 250,000 Panchayats with fibre with 100 MBPS bandwidth. DEF's invitation has been instrumental from the point of view that beyond Panchayat, it is advising the Wireless network technology and use of free spectrum to connect every village.
- Few of class A ISP providers such as NSTPL Broadband Solutions, RailTel Corporation of India changed their policy and offering us to take their franchises on revenue sharing basis; in this partnership they will provide us bandwidth through their available the existing infrastructure; and we will be providing the last mile connectivity via our wireless infrastructure.
- Receiving demand from various organizations; government departments, and district/block officers to implement the wireless network in their community. For example – Ministry of Minority Affairs (Govt. of India) asked to implement the wireless network at Chandauli Panchayat in Umrain Block of Alwar District (Rajasthan) under its project 'Minority Cyber Gram Yojna'; block development officer from West Champaran, Uttarakhand based organisation Avani has asked to provide connectivity in their region using wireless mesh network.
- Barefoot engineers established the wireless mesh network at School for Democracy campus located at Bhim district of Rajasthan and Sapna NGO located at Alwar district of Rajasthan.
- Provided ICT training and vocational training to the communities, so that they can become entrepreneurs and able to improve their livelihoods.
- Provided customized services as per customers' need which in result enabled customers not only fulfill their needs but also within their estimated cost.

#### ***Actual Results to Date***

- In the last one year, Guna 'Wireless in Unlicensed Band' has reached from 28 nodes to 75 nodes. More than 5 access points have established and have connected 75 users. These nodes are presently providing internet connectivity at institutions, schools, micro-enterprises, cyber cafés, and individuals.
- In relation to policy interventions, organized one expert technical workshop, national-level consultation and user-community workshops to protect free wireless spectrum.
- Organized technical workshops to bring challenges and share the best practices. Also organized the national-level consultations in order to advocate towards rural internet service provider (ISP).
- Created dedicated localized (ground-level) team to work on the establishment and management of wireless network. The team include members from marginalized community (or tribal community)
- Organized the national consultation on "Connecting rural communities of India through Unlicensed spectrum" on the occasion of Manthan Award Asia Pacific 2013 in December 2013). The consultation is an effort to understand the importance of unlicensed band and how wire and wireless network can be used together to provide uniform internet access across the country.
- Published various articles in relation advocating on utilization of unlicensed spectrum and shared success case stories at national newspaper and with our network partners.
- Scale & number of community participation; number of users including tribal locals capable to use wireless access infrastructure & facilities for self-development; positive response & participation of the local communities including tribal community
- Provided ICT training and vocational training to the communities, so that they can become entrepreneurs and able to improve their livelihoods.
- Provided customized services as per customers' need which in result enabled customers not

only fulfill their needs but also within their estimated cost.

- So far, 3 Training of Trainers (ToT), 3 Trainee and 35 user-community workshops organized to strengthen wireless community in Guna
- Receiving demand from various organizations; government departments, and district/block officers to implement the wireless network in their community. For example – Ministry of Minority Affairs (Govt. of India) asked to implement the wireless network at Chandauli Panchayat in Umrain Block of Alwar District (Rajasthan) under its project 'Minority Cyber Gram Yojna'; block development officer from West Champaran, Uttarakhand based organisation Avani has asked to provide connectivity in their region using wireless mesh network.
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## Goals

Please help us understand what you achieved with this grant in relationship to the larger goals you hoped to achieve.

### ***Expected Goals to be Achieved***

- Expansion of the nodes points to 100
- Organize 5 technology micro workshops: This includes Training of Trainers (ToT), user community training, workshops and orientation programmes. A total of 10 ToTs will be trained in wireless set up and management.
- 4 trainee workshops: A total of 4 workshops involving trainees & trainers in 4 different locations; 25 trainees will be trained in wireless network technology & set up;
- 50 user community workshops: these workshops to reach out to at least 1250 user trainees from the community (25 users per workshop) towards developed capacities on usage of wireless network and services. A key focus here – ethics & code of conduct in internet usage
- Two public engagement conferences will be undertaken within 8 months and 18 months of project work and implementation. These conferences to have representatives from institutions, individuals, users, trainers, experts;
- A project film
- A Project dynamic website

### ***Goals Achieved to Date***

#### **Expansion of project access points**

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#### **Capacity Building & Training**

- Organized technical workshops to bring challenges and share the best practices. Also organized the national-level consultations in order to advocate towards rural internet service provider (ISP).
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#### **Project Film & Website**

- Created two project films and 8 case-studies and developed a project website (guna.wforc.in)

### **Organizational/Environmental Changes**

Please describe any significant organizational or environmental changes that have had an impact on your work during the most recent reporting period. Include a description of how you have responded to those changes and how your plans may change as a result.

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- Barefoot engineers established the wireless mesh network at School for Democracy campus located at Bhim district of Rajasthan
- Inclusion of barefoot wireless engineers
- Developed dedicated team for entire wireless network eco-system
- Trained/Skilled manpower available to set-up, establish wireless network
- Capacity to start off separate division/entity to take wireless for communities programme using unlicensed spectrum as an independent entity
- Localized team available at ground to develop local content

### **Organizational or Management Challenges**

Please review any significant organizational or management issues you have experienced during the most recent reporting period (such as significant changes in your staff or board composition or other factors that could hinder the organization's ability to gather and interpret financial or program-related data). Please also highlight any outstanding needs for organizational strengthening.

- Women member have been added in the process and management flow of wireless ecosystem
- Women are providing and managing the centres.
- The project has been delayed for two months because of receiving all four-level clearances from various government departments as well as in communication with other stakeholders.

Presently, 75 nodes (which are approx. one-third of proposed nodes) have been established to provide internet connectivity at different strata of community. These nodes are presently providing internet connectivity at institutions, schools, micro-enterprises, cyber cafés, and individuals. Thus, in the next period cycle, we are in position to expand the nodes from 75 to 100 nodes covering the remotest areas of Guna district.

Providing continuous training to barefoot engineers to establish wireless network at different locations.

So far, 3 Training of Trainers (ToT), 3 Trainee and 35 user-community workshops organized to strengthen wireless community in Guna.

Receiving demand from various organizations; government departments, and district/block officers to implement the wireless network in their community. For example – Ministry of Minority Affairs (Govt. of India) asked to implement the wireless network at Chandauli Panchayat in Umrain Block of Alwar District (Rajasthan) under its project 'Minority Cyber Gram Yojna'; block development officer from West Champaran, Uttarakhand based organisation Avani has asked to provide connectivity in their region using wireless mesh network. Thus, the organization is planning to create franchise for promoting rural ISPs in the country.

Barefoot engineers established the wireless mesh network at School for Democracy campus located at Bhim district of Rajasthan; Sapna NGO located at Alwar district of Rajasthan.

## Diversity

Please describe any changes in the forms of diversity (e.g., gender, racial, cultural, religious, immigrant/refugee background, linguistic, etc.) to the Board or staff composition over the reporting period. If your organization has had any recent diversity challenges, please comment on these as well.

Two prospective women member have joined as governing body member  
Women members have been added on the project both on ground and at management level  
Dedicated localized team who is working on the establishment and management of wireless network. The team include members from marginalized community (or tribal community)

## **Financial Report**

Please use the separate Grant Financial Report worksheet to report expenditures of grant funds in each of the budget categories.

*By submission of this report we hereby certify that the individual submitting this report is authorized to submit it on behalf of the organization and that we are in compliance with the requirements of the grant letter and that any funds expended have been expended in accordance with the purposes of the grant.*

Name and title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Annexure: List of articles published at LiveMint

- New Year Ideas | Live and work in a village (Published: Sat, Jan 04 2014)  
<http://www.livemint.com/Leisure/vecMn5hW6yxVRCBEEamXIO/New-Year-Ideas--Live-and-work-in-a-village.html>
- Let NGOs provide rural Net services (Published 25 Nov. 2013)  
<http://www.livemint.com/Specials/Nvjt8MPtKbZYuMt5eLv7JI/Let-NGOs-provide-rural-Net-services.html>
- True Internet penetration in India is less than 10% (Published: Sun, Oct 27 2013)  
<http://www.livemint.com/Specials/9hMhxHmMo1WxyI3zcCJCMK/True-Internet-penetration-in-India-is-less-than-10.html>
- Making the most of mobiles (Published: Sun, Jul 14 2013)  
<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/9JIPq3I8YOerKa3s7dMN7O/Making-the-most-of-mobiles.html>
- Broadband Internet's rural role (Published: Mon, Jun 24 2013)  
<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/XOWcOGavkFIYOvMUGbk5QK/Broadband-Internets-rural-role.html>
- An effort to connect villages (Published: Sun, Jul 01 2012)  
<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/tTBpHlvGvAh1qXY9SGVNaL/An-effort-to-connect-villages.html>
- Internet reach: a cultural challenge (Published: Sun, Jun 24 2012)  
<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/jqBs6oQn9jr9FuuiS8x37K/Internet-reach-a-cultural-challenge.html>
- Internet's last-mile challenges (Published: Wed, Dec 14 2011)  
<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/TQ2IIXEAnBWJErK29pG6JP/Internet8217s-lastmile-challenges.html>