



## Nomination Form for Telecentre India Award for Civil Society/Development Agency of the Year

<b>Name of the Project</b>	<b>Telecentre Partnership for development</b>
<b>Address</b>	<b>Omshagara Gedaref c/o Khartoum 2 alamarat post office st 19th box 15021 zip 12217</b>
<b>City</b>	<b>Gedaref</b>
<b>State</b>	<b>Gedaref</b>
<b>Country</b>	<b>Sudan</b>

### *2) Please Answer the following questions:*

**(a) List of various initiatives which you handled or handling. Give the project details, your success story(s), project management. [The listed projects should be functional and not be more than three years old]**

Sudan is the biggest country in Africa. It is 2,505,800 sq km. Sudan has borders with 9 countries (7,687 km) , the weather ranging from tropical in the south and desert in the north. Sudan population (April 2009) is 39.15 million. 30.89 million (79%) in the north and 8.26 (21%) in the south. Gedaref mechanized corporation (GMC) is the biggest rain-fed mechanized agricultural scheme in Sudan. This rain-fed mechanized scheme has a high potential of building a national food stock and provide hard currencies which improve the economy of the country. GMC is growing more than 8 million feddan (1 feddan = 1.038 acre) Gedaref digital city organization (GDCO) is NGOs (Gedaref Sudan). GDCO is the founder of the first national Telecentre academy in Africa and the 13th in the world (Sudan national Telecentre academy SuNTA). GDCO is the winner of information for development award (i4d e-India 2007) also the winner of i4d 2008 awards for the best innovations at the grassroots Telecentre. Digital city of Eindhoven (DSE) donated 750 computers to GDCO and more than ten community development projects were established using ICT. It is part of the global Telecentre movement

## **1- e-health and Telemedicine**

It is the delivery of health-related services (clinical and non clinical) and information via telecommunications technologies. Telemedicine is the ability to deliver healthcare or clinical services (where distance is a critical factor) which allows patients to visit or consult with physicians (specialist) live through ICT

GDCO& DSE donated 51 computers to the project. More than 40 medical staff were trained a medical e-form was developed. A telemedicine unit (10X23 meter) was donated by national telecommunication corporation (NTC) and constructed in the hospital of Gedaref and manage by Gedaref university

## **2- e-education and bridging the digital divide**

GDCO work very hard in bridging the digital divide, training and enhancing capacity building for the community. GDCO established more than 15 Telecentres in Gedaref and 3 Telecentre in Khartoum. GDCO trained the community for cost price. It trains the disabled for free. More than 3000 were trained. GDCO donated 120 computers to Gedaref university (faculty of IT and community college). Two units (3X 6 meters) as e-library with 15 computers were donated to the university. A telemedicine unit will be also used for training the students online. More than 300 disabled were trained (159 deaf and 140 physical disabled) and new project for training the blinds in Khartoum university will be established in partner with IDRC and ESCWA-UN. Training 120 teachers (free) as mangers and operators for school Telecentres established by NTC. GDCO established Sudan national Telecentre academy (SuNTA) as the first academy in Africa. OTHER GDCO projects

### **OTHER GDCO PROJECTS**

**3- Include the excluded**

**4- Speeding e-government**

**5- Graduate support**

**6- Using of ICT for disaster control**

**7- e-farmer (e-agriculture) which is the most important one that sustain GDCO.**

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**(b) Brief description of nominated project/initiative, including purpose of the project/initiative**

**7- e-agriculture**

**objectives of e-agriculture**

- 1- Best utilization of ICT for agriculture development specially GIS & GPS in monitoring agricultural resources.
- 2- Enhance capacity building and improve the quality of training of agricultural sector
- 3- increasing crop yield and decreasing cost of crop production.
- 4- development of national and global crop marketing online.
- 5- Using the web in e-farming where farmers can get agriculture extension, information through GIS and GPS to help them manage their farms, ,, , also exchange of Knowledge and best practices between farmers . .
- 6- Establishment of strong partnership to improve agricultural practices.

**E-agriculture tools and methodology**

- 1- quality training to enhance capacity building of the farmers and agricultural staff in Gedaref through Telecentres.
- 2- establishment of agricultural data base in the mechanized rain fed agricultural corporation.
- 3- establishment of crop marketing data base for the agricultural crops in Gedaref and then replicated in other states
- 4- development with Drishtee the agro mobile services which provides 6 e-agricultural services at the beginnings.

**E-agriculture implementation**

- 1- GDCO and DSE donated 15 computers to Gedaref mechanized agriculture corporation, 21 PCs to the farmers union ( 10 PCs to Gedaref mechanized farmer union, 6 PCs to Gedaref state union as farmers information centre, 5 PCs to gala alnahal farmer union) to establish training Telecentres and 3 rural Telecentres in Doka, Hawata and Fao .
- 2- GDCO trained 55 agricultural engineers and staff of Gedaref mechanized agriculture corporation the basic of the computers courses then 25 of them were trained more than 12 courses on computer and GIS and GPS courses.

3- a software (program) for Gedaref mechanized agriculture corporation was developed and the information of 13.000 farmers was included in the system of mechanized agriculture corporation.

4 - designing a web portal for the crops prices

<http://gedaref.com/markets/>

5- a new partnership with Sudani (mobile operator and internet service provider) and EU and FAO through SIFSIA ( Sudan institute for food security information action) was established [www.trade.net](http://www.trade.net)

6- finally the agro-mobile e-service started designed in partnership with Drishtee organization will be developed . (We get the experience and information from Indian organizations and companies (e.g. TATA) at Grameen 5th convention. Drishtee started designing the mobile. the mobile will provide 6 e-services to the farmers, traders, companies or any one who need it. )

#### **Agro-mobile services**

<http://202.71.128.176/mobile/sudanmobapp>

1/ Daily weather forecast

2/ Crops prices.

3/ fertilizers applications .

4/ Agriculture News beak.

5/ online support (help desk) .

6/ animal prices

#### **How the agro-service will work?**

These services are provided in 4 ways

a- SMS

b- voice messages

c- internet

d- through a 3rd party for illiterate people and in rural area. (this party will sell many e-services to community e.g. mobiles prepaid card, electricity prepaid card, and help farmers to sell water) their crop.

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**(c) Brief description of the key persons who are involved in this project/initiative**

**-ahmed mahmoud mohamed eisa**

**-Chairman of Gedaref digital city organization (GDCO) full time volunteer.**

**-B.Sc in Agriculture Khartoum university (1981)**

**-M.Sc (Agriculture.) Manhattan Kansas USA (1985) in pearl millet**

**-State Minister of Agriculture Sudan in 1988**

**-Parliament (constituent assembly) member in 1986 – 1989**

**-Representative of the parliament in the Arab parliamentary union meeting in Abu Dhabi (1989)**

**-Representative of parliament in the national research council (1986 - 1989)**

**- former member in agriculture research council**

**-Gedaref University council member, Alsharg University (former)**

**-Former Member of board of director of Agric. Bank, Farmer bank and Sudan commercial bank.**

**-founder of first national Telecentre academy in Africa and middle east and the thirteen in the world**

**-winner of information for development awards i4d 2007 and i4d (DISABLED INCLUSION)**

**- attend 23 international conferences, workshop and forums and presented more 20 papers.**

**- winner of information for development awards i4d 2008 (INNOVATION)**

**- Cover magazine for many IT magazine and blogger in many websites.**

**- member in east Africa telecentre leaders, north Africa telecentre leader, euorpe telecentre leaders, GKP, CIVICUS and Ugabytes.org, telecentre.org**

**- ESCWA – UN telecentre member**

**<http://www.knowledgenets.net/gedaref/>**

**- UN online volunteer**

**[http://www.onlinevolunteering.org/en/vol/opportunity/organization\\_view.html?id=10790](http://www.onlinevolunteering.org/en/vol/opportunity/organization_view.html?id=10790)**

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## WORD COUNT 255

(d) Achievements of the project/Outcome of the project

### E-farmer and the 8 MDGs

The main objectives of this project are to increase the agricultural production, improve its quality and nutritional value and reduce the cost of production which focuses on poverty and hunger reduction,,, increase farmers income which improve the quality of education ,, improve household food security and nutrition which reduce children mortality and Improve maternal health,,, This project gives the farmers the opportunity to be medically treated using information technology (telemedicine) to reduce the cost and provide the patients with high quality of treatments against serious diseases (malaria, typhoid, HIV),,,, The project ensure environmental sustainability by preventing over exploiting the resources and preventing the eradication of forestry and these can be taken through GIS monitoring of agricultural resources.,,,, finally this e-farmer project is a great partnership where partners (farmers, NGOs, PPP) from different parts of the world share

experiences , best practices and knowledge to make the life more comfortable for farmers communities.

### **E-agriculture achievements**

1- Huge data base for daily crops prices for than 20 crops ( sorghum , sesame, gum Arabic, vegetables and animals ) were collected daily. <http://gedaref.com/markets/> . Also this data is send weekly to SIFSIA on e-souk (e-market) for testing a big project [www.trade.net](http://www.trade.net) which will start in august

2- More than 13.000 farmers information are installed in the system of Gedaref mechanized agriculture corporation (GMAC). Farmers renew their farm license annually and it is done manually in two to three days, but now they can renew in few minutes.

3- a daily report of information is available to the director general, the minister of agriculture (agriculture Sector, Division, Name of the area, Farm number , Area of the farm, Computer number , Renewal date , Amount paid , and whether the farm is planted or not and how many acres are planted and what type of crop) which will help ministers, Leaders and mangers to take an accurate and quick decision.

4- a lot of information about crops quantity are available which help in good planning for food security.

5-- SIFSIA is going to distribute 10.000 mobiles to the farmers to encourage using the services to sell their crops and know the prices of the crops.

6- farmers and traders can easily sell and buy crops.

7- achieve the 8th MDGs.

8- sharing experiences and best practices locally, nationally and globally.

9 - reduction in the cost of agricultural planning and Geographic coordinates (demarcation) because it is conducted by the trained engineers in GMAC.

10- this project is going to be replicated all over Sudan by the end of this year.

### **The Importance of e-agriculture project for GDCO sustainability**

GDCO is going to invest on this project to sustain its Telecentres

1- selling these information to the traders, and private companies.

2- selling a weekly information to SIFSIA to keep it on its website e-souk [www.trade.net](http://www.trade.net)

3- getting percentages of the message send by Sudani

**Word Count: 488**

**e) Give details of the challenges that were faced while implementing the project and how were they overcome.**

Like any other Telecentres in developing countries. GDCO facing a lot of challenges which include 1- neither the government nor the community ICT is part of their culture or a priority 2- high cost of computers 3- low speed and high cost of internet 4- poverty and digital divide 5- Monopoly of telecommunications companies (one service provider). 6- sustainability 7- quality of training and certification 8- poverty 9- funding (financial support)

GDCO to overcome some of these challenges established a model depend on partnerships with the NGOs (both national and international), schools, government and private sector to use the schools, clubs to reduce the cost of training. GDCO reduce the running cost (salaries) by on call (temporary) teachers. GDCO signed agreements with many universities to have their final year students to train the community the basic courses of computer.

This public private partnership (PPP) provide GDCO with the basic infra structure specially the computers. GDCO is now investing in the e-agriculture project and it is going to sell the crop market information. GDCO in a partnership with Africa university trained more than 800 people computer courses for free.

Poverty is widely spread (99% of the disabled are very poor) within the disabled and they can not access ICT, so GDCO train them for free and provide some of them with free computers and maintain it. Also GDCO train some of them as trainers (TOT) which help us to shorten the period of training and reduce the cost. GDCO use the deaf for the promotion of easiness of learning computers and send them to the internet café and pay their bill and this convince many people to study computer and the number of internet café increased by more than 500% (five hundred) in one year.

#### Word Count 290

(f) Please furnish any other related useful information about the nominated initiative that you have not been able to provide in your earlier responses

The information supporting fund in Sudan through the national telecommunication corporation (NTC) collected money from each mobile operators as a percentage paid by the subscribers.. . This money is used by NTC in developing ICT in constructing 1219 school Telecentres (3.5 X 6 meters with 10 computers and network) targeting 2500 schools by the end of this year. Also constructed 153 community Telecentres (10 X 23 meters, 15 PCs , copy machine, printers, fax and internet), 61 of the community Telecentres trained 2.433 of the community. NTC provides 50 computers for every university. Also provided 50.000 computers to the community (400 \$/ computers for 20 months). NTC constructed 12 telemedicine units.

GDCO has a partnership with NTC. GDCO on behave of Sudan Telecentre academy (SuNTA) sign a MoU with the ministry of education in Gedaref state to train 120 teachers as Telecentre operators and mangers and it will be replicated in other states.

GDCO last month start a new partnership with Gedaref metrology station. The station will provide GDCO website with

1- rain fall from 80 rain gauges installed in different part of Gedaref agricultural schemes. And the predicted rain for 10 days.

2- daily temperature and sun burn.

3- relative humidity

4-wind speed

**Another partnership will be signed this month with all the states in Sudan to have this e-agriculture replicated. A web portal for crop and animals prices will be developed and the revenue from this project will be a source of sustainability for the Telecentres.**