

## QUARTERLY REPORT DECEMBER 2022

### EXTENTION OF COMMUNITY NETWORKS

Fortune DC's thrust at the moment is focused on information and communication technology. Access to ICT such as the Internet can enhance the lives of rural citizens by:

Providing information about agricultural and off-farm livelihoods,

Delivering public services,

Dissemination of educational knowledge,

Disseminating health facilities.

Information and communication technology can be thought of as an umbrella under which there reside communication systems, devices and applications. The main importance of ICT is given to its ability to provide greater access to information and communication to the populations and the quality of service provided than the technological backbone required. Rural development includes economic betterment of people as well as greater social transformation to eliminate poverty, ignorance and inequality of opportunities.

In developing countries like Zimbabwe, a large number of people are resident in rural areas. Thus, rural development programmes are a necessary aspect. Use of information and communication technology can contribute a lot in socio-economic development of communal areas. In the current communications build-up, we are mainly focused on rural education, agriculture, and then expand into health care facility, disaster and emergency response.

It is pertinent to note that ICTs are very useful in agricultural extension and advisory services and in facilitating reaching out to family farmers. Extension and Advisory services play a crucial role in promoting agricultural productivity, increasing food security, improving rural livelihoods. The focus in this endeavour is on improving governance through the use of information and communication technology in the delivery of services to poor communities, i.e., improving efficiency, accountability, and transparency; the use of ICTs in the management of delivery of public services in health, and provision of subsidized food to the needy.

ICT based distance learning facility can help a lot in providing higher education to the rural students. Not only in primary or higher education, anytime anywhere feature of ICT helps to provide adult education in the rural areas.

Our long-term priorities are to engage young people, build trust within the community development system, identify and create collective impacts, increase capacity within the community development system:

- build shared strategies,
- build and share resources,
- increase development funding.

It's useful to set targets at regular intervals to ensure our community networking is growing in the right direction and to track progress. This will also help spot any issues before they worsen, and can help innovate and adapt established community networks as the hotspots already in place need change. For example:

- Internet access-speeds should be upgraded;
- It's essential to track number of people using the Internet on a monthly basis;
- Record the number of average connections per area.

If the number of connections drops in specific areas, explore why this could be. Don't forget, a community can also be a useful source of feedback so don't be afraid to ask members directly for their thoughts about created online community networks.

Being able to network provides opportunities that people might otherwise not have access to. The tutorial project expands our thinking, help us innovate, and explore diverse viewpoints. We discover a new project, career, and goal that we weren't aware of before. And all of these positive things will be attributed back to our brand—Fortune DC cannot buy that kind of reputation boost.

In essence, one of our top priorities when developing community networks should be to provide networking opportunities. Make it easy for our audiences to access the Internet through WiFi. Connect people:

- in the right space or classroom,
- around the right topics,
- at the right time.

And it will all fall into place.

Furthermore, computer training needs to be expanded particularly for older people and women. When funds are available, initiate outreach campaigns such as open days, competitions, and marketing at local gatherings to raise awareness of rural ICT programs. Successful impacts should also be demonstrated so that villagers can see the concrete benefits of ICT use.

#### The significance of statistical data

Data on the results of rural ICT interventions should be collected, compiled, analysed, and disseminated on a regular basis, and should be used to inform policy decision making. Users and nonusers of the various programmes should be *surveyed* both *ex ante* and *ex post* to generate credible evidence regarding impacts.

Public Internet access facilities available at "Hotspots" like the Katiro Memorial Centre (KMC) and institutions like schools should be leveraged to become hubs of village

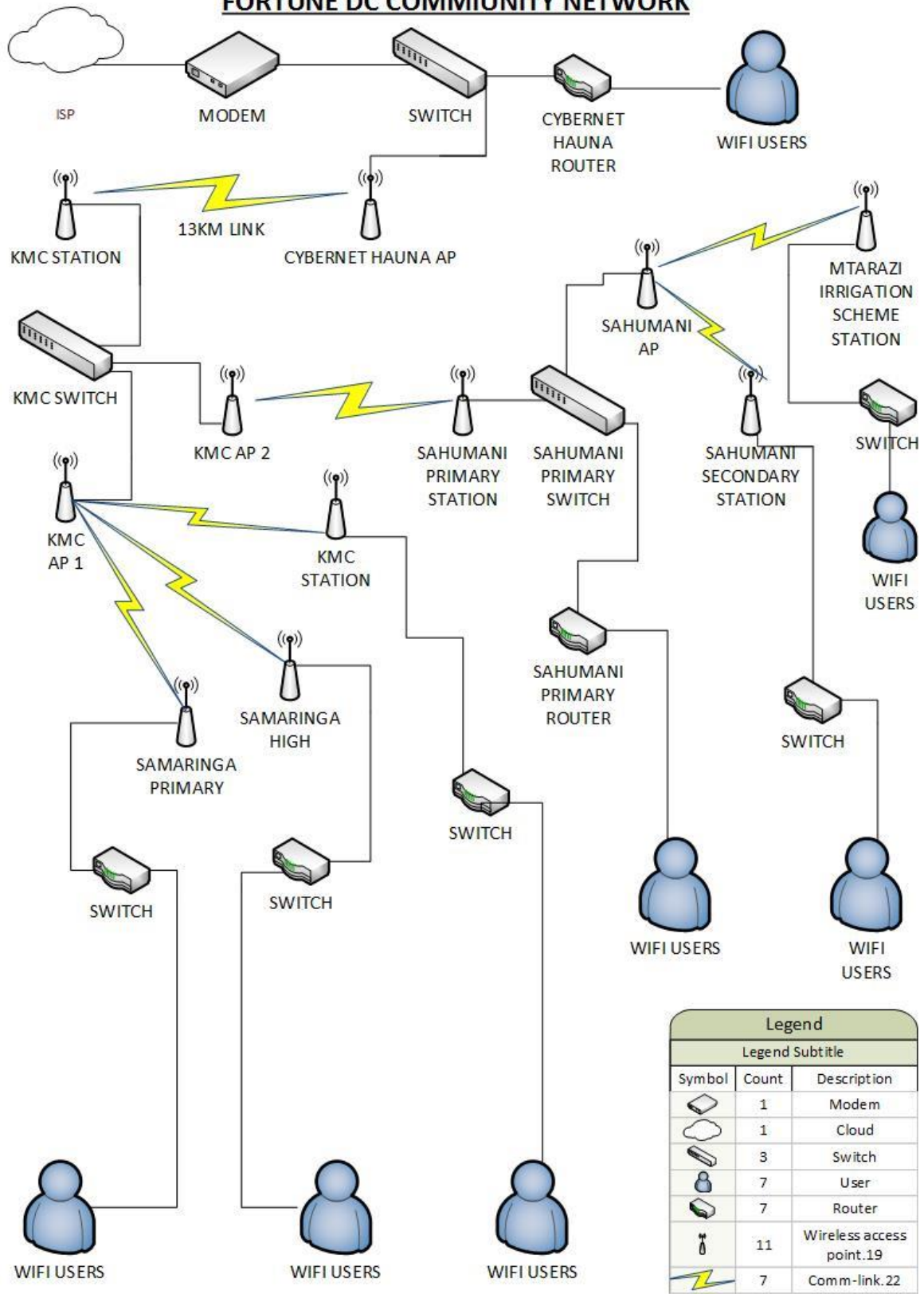
innovation through networking rural businesses and communities. This includes developing linkages with international and domestic firms for ICT-enabled contract work. The use of e-commerce and social networking platforms by small business should be fostered in order to improve productivity and expand access to domestic and global markets.

#### Long-term sustainability for rural ICT interventions

There are several practices to achieve greater long-term sustainability for rural ICT interventions. This includes making greater use of partnerships and shifting the obligations of telecommunications operators from infrastructure deployment to operations. Public-private partnerships should be more broadly utilised for content and applications to leverage the expertise of international Internet companies through technology transfer. Income-generating services could be incorporated in public Internet access facilities to defray costs and increase demand.

ICT access from computers and mobile devices should complement each other. Mobile phones are ideal for personalised, short sessions, and small information streams. Computers and tablets are suited for more intensive applications, extensive searching, and e-book reading. Public Internet access centres should extend their portfolio by more deeply integrating wireless support. At the same time, considering the likely growth of smartphones and other Wi-Fi-enabled mobile devices, the government could consider supporting free wireless local area network access for rural areas.

# FORTUNE DC COMMUNITY NETWORK



Legend		
Legend Subtitle		
Symbol	Count	Description
	1	Modem
	1	Cloud
	3	Switch
	7	User
	7	Router
	11	Wireless access point.19
	7	Comm-link.22

Compiled by  
JW Chikuhwa  
Founder/Director  
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