The launch of the "ICT4Democracy in East Africa" project in June 2006 was prompted on the recognition that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) enhance communication and the right to freedom of expression, as well as the right to seek, receive and impart information. This ICT has the potential to increase citizens’ participation in decision-making processes, thus strengthening democratization.

In Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, where this initiative is active, some organizations are leveraging on ICT to build local accountability to citizens, as well as on power exceptions; service delivery, and contribute to building a democratic culture. In many other parts of the world, eParticipation is being used for monitoring, monitoring of elections, including initiatives of human rights and empowerment of women. The ICT4Democracy project is focusing on increasing flows of information and facilitating communication, thus enhancing people’s capacity to act and participate in democratic processes.

The ICT4Democracy in East Africa project, which has received funding from the Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Regions (SPIDER), is encouraging community engagement due to increased access to information. In the three countries where it is currently operating, this project is using the ICT tool in play, thus enhancing civic empowerment and improving government and ICT use.

Organizations participating in the project include the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (Tanzania), The Talibby Initiative (Uganda) and the iHub (Kenya). The Kenya Human Rights Commission, Transparency International Kenya and Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET) are among the key partners of the project.

Table 1: Country population, mobile and internet access statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Mobile subscribers</th>
<th>Internet users (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>42.5 m</td>
<td>40 m</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>34.0 m</td>
<td>13 m</td>
<td>30.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>34.0 m</td>
<td>13 m</td>
<td>24.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Mobile subscribers and Internet users (%) are as of 2008.*

The project objectives and activities include:

- Promoting Social Accountability in the Health Sector in Tanzania
- M-Governance: Exploring conditions for Successful M-Governance in Kenya
- Monitor Districts’ Service Delivery Through ICTs in Uganda
- Advancing Access to Information for Women in Tanzania
- Researching and Identifying Conditions for Successful M-Governance in Uganda
- Promoting Accountability and Transparency of Government in Tanzania
- Enhancing Access to Information for Women in Tanzania
- Promoting Accountability and Transparency of Government in Tanzania

Project objectives and activities:

- The project aims to address the problem of corruption and inadequate social accountability in the health sector of Tanzania.
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The Kilembe Women’s Union Network (KWEEN) is a women’s organization established in 1998 in Bwindi and Katuna, Uganda to empower women to use the ICT among women to share their information and address greater issues. Women organizations, particularly women are prone to poor service delivery and corruption due to lack of access to adequate information and services. Through the strategic use of ICT services, mobile phones and capability building workshops, KWEEN aims to improve access to public services, increase efficiency and accountability of government actors and local government, improve linkages with civil society actors and local government that are prone the poor use of ICT by government. Women organizations, particularly women are prone to poor service delivery and corruption due to lack of access to adequate information and services. Through the strategic use of ICT services, mobile phones and capability building workshops, KWEEN aims to improve access to public services, increase efficiency and accountability of government actors and local government, improve linkages with civil society actors and local government that are prone the poor use of ICT by government.

Project objectives and activities:

- To promote social accountability in the health sector of Uganda through strengthening community-based organizations and local-level health governance.
- To promote awareness and development of capacity among citizens’ groups, local government, and the private sector in order to address the problem of corruption and inadequate social accountability in the health sector of Uganda.

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The Written Women’s Union Network (WOWEN) is a women’s organization established in 1998 in Bwindi and Katuna, Uganda to empower women to use the ICT among women to share their information and address greater issues. Women organizations, particularly women are prone to poor service delivery and corruption due to lack of access to adequate information and services. Through the strategic use of ICT services, mobile phones and capability building workshops, WOWEN aims to improve access to public services, increase efficiency and accountability of government actors and local government, improve linkages with civil society actors and local government that are prone the poor use of ICT by government.

Project objectives and activities:

- To promote social accountability in the health sector of Uganda through strengthening community-based organizations and local-level health governance.
- To promote awareness and development of capacity among citizens’ groups, local government, and the private sector in order to address the problem of corruption and inadequate social accountability in the health sector of Uganda.

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