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VillaTEC Telecenter Case Study

Villa Fundación, Bani. Dom. Rep.

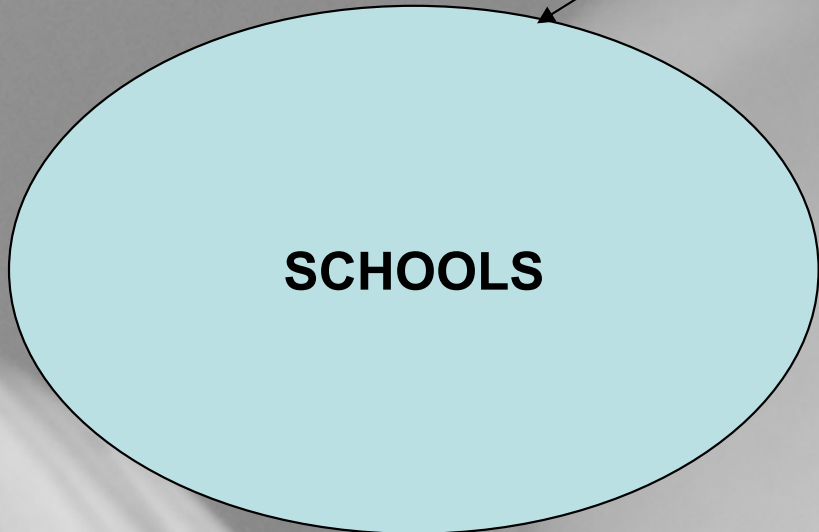
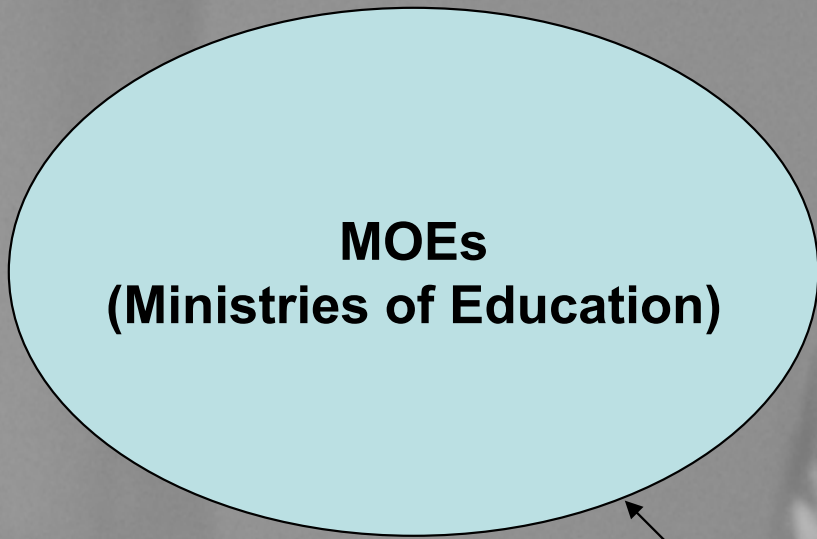


World Links Mission Overview




**TEACHERS PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM
(TPD)**

**SCHOOL BASED TELECENTER
PROGRAM
(SBT)**



**WHAT IS A WORLD LINKS SCHOOL
BASED TELECENTER
(SBT)?**

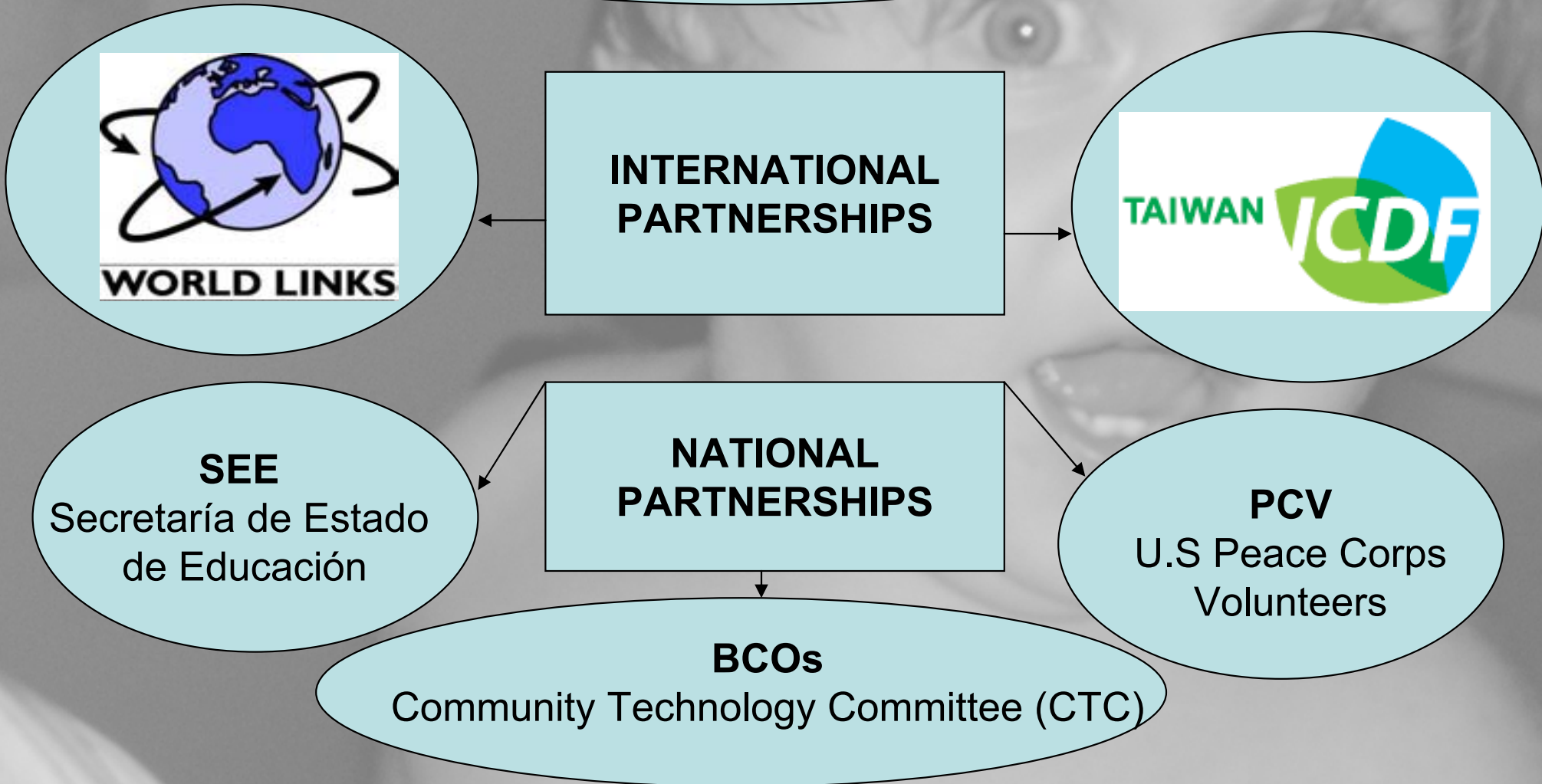




SBT OBJECTIVES

- **Empower school administrators, teachers, students, and community leaders to convert their computer labs to self-sustaining revenue-generating telecenters (paying for connectivity, electricity, maintenance).**
- **Provide micro-enterprise skills to students, teachers, parents, and community members.**
- **Promote basic technological skills (e.g. word processing, email, internet navigation) and many other services to the community.**
- **Increase low-cost community access to technology.**
- **Link the schools to the community by making use of its computer laboratories.**

WL - SBT DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



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Objectives of the Study:

1. To assess the impact of the Telecenters in the local community.
2. To evaluate the impact of the SBTs ability to strengthen World Links' strategic objectives and overall mission: "To improve educational outcomes, economic opportunities, and global understanding for youth through the use of information technology and new approaches to learning", specially:
 - ▶ Technology knowledge, use, attitudes.
 - ▶ Impact of Career Choice.
 - ▶ Impact of participation in World Links telecenter on their ability to get a job.
 - ▶ Use of technology in their current jobs, in school and for other purposes.
3. To assess the health and sustainability of VillaTEC Telecenter and identify salient issues that have affected and are affecting Telecenter performance
4. To identify and highlight best practices.

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Localización Villa Fundación:



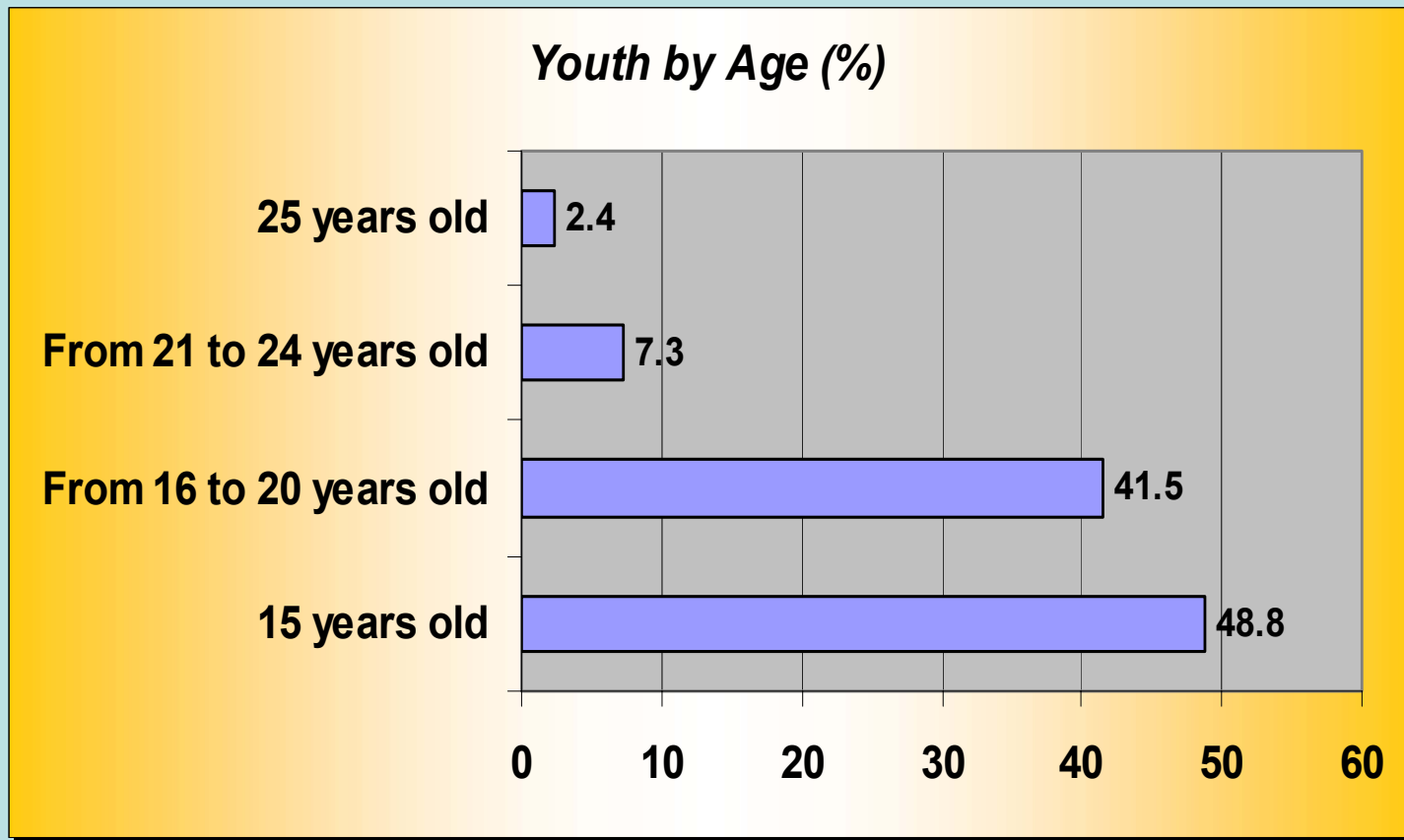
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Población y Población económicamente activa:

INGRESOS	CANTIDAD	PORCENTAJE
Menos de 1,000	688	21
De 1,000 A 1,999	374	11
De 2,000 A 3,299	373	11
De 3,300 A 4,699	222	7
De 4,700 A 6,599	107	3
De 6,600 A 11,399	74	2
De 11,400 A 16,999	20	1
De 17,000 y más	22	1
No declarado	1406	43
Total	3286	100
Población Total	8550	
Porcentaje Población Económicamente Activa		38.43

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Focus Groups:



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Focus Groups:



Main findings

General findings:

1. Internet connection at the SBT was not reliable because the local internet provider, Verizon Dominicana, did not offer broadband connection. The lack of connectivity motivated the Community Technology Committee to install a 56kbs dial-up connection for the SBT administrators.
2. The services offered included courses in advanced information English, business, graphic design, electricity and computer repair.
3. Some of the general services offered by the center were printing, scanning, word processing, program installation, and the sale of disks and CDs.
4. The different services offered based on training and the use of computers both with educational and entertainment purposes.
5. The link between the school and the community, especially with grassroots organizations like the Parent Association, the Asociación Pro-desarrollo de Villa Fundación (ADEFU) and the Centro de Madres.
6. The creation of the Community Technology Club (CTC) and the Science and Technology Club whose members work day after day so that the hardware is in place and that there are human resources to deliver the services.
7. The opportunity for youth and adults to have access to technology at an affordable cost.

Main findings

General findings:

We would like to highlight the participation of youth and its impact on their decisions about future schooling. This is without a doubt creating a new generation of citizens with a technological background. Because of this program students are able to insert themselves into the information society. This is evidenced by:

1. The participation of more youth than adults with the existing information infrastructure.
2. The demand for services that will have a great business impact, such as training in publishing tools (digital photography, HTML, XML, Java, etc.) and tools that are oriented towards the internet.
3. The participation of youth as facilitators and teachers in VillaTEC and the demand for training in computer repair.
4. More than 55% of people surveyed between the ages of 15 and 25 have decided or are thinking of continuing their education in the information technology field. Those that are choosing other careers recognize the importance of technology in their professional careers.

Main findings

Financing:

The total investment in the pilot program was USD\$50,000 with USD\$10,000 going towards VillaTEC.

Income from Services, December/January 2005.

SERVICES	Income	
	RDS	USD\$
Internet	100.00	3.33
Training	70,744.00	2,358.13
Copies	60.00	2.00
Word Processing	7,827.00	260.90
CD Copying	180.00	6.0
Other	72,955.00	2,431.83
Totals	151,866.00	5,062.20

Main findings

Financing:

Income and Payment for the Last Fiscal Period December/January 2005

Months	Income		Payments		BALANCE	
	RD\$	US\$	RD\$	US\$	RD\$	US\$
January	6,525.00	217.50	7,000.00	233.33	-475	-15.83
February	12,794.00	426.47	7,000.00	233.33	5,794.00	193.13
March	14,685.00	489.50	7,000.00	233.33	7,685.00	256.17
April	12,489.00	416.30	7,000.00	233.33	5,489.00	182.97
May	10,102.00	336.73	7,000.00	233.33	3,102.00	103.40
June	10,699.00	356.63	7,000.00	233.33	3,699.00	123.30
July	7,668.00	255.60	5,000.00	166.67	2,668.00	88.93
August	8,256.00	275.20	5,000.00	166.67	3,256.00	108.53
September	15,924.00	530.80	12,538.00	417.93	3,386.00	112.87
October	18,600.00	620.00	9,862.00	328.73	8,738.00	291.27
November	9,990.00	666.33	13,372.00	445.73	6,618.00	220.60
December	14,134.00	471.13	12,105.00	403.50	2,029.00	67.63
Totals	151,866.00	5,062.20	99,877.00	3,329.23	51,989.00	1,732.97

Main findings

Lessons Learned:

- ***El acceso a internet no ha sido imprescindible***, aunque constaría creerlo en el caso de un proyecto de telecentro y reconociendo que el acceso a la red ha sido una de las grandes limitaciones, el VillaTEC ha cosechado éxito tanto desde el punto de vista financiero como en su impacto en las comunidades beneficiarias y sus actores; así lo han demostrado los hechos, lo que da espacio para inferir sobre el peso de la participación comunitaria y el empoderamiento de los actores para el logro de las metas en este tipo de iniciativas;
- ***La realidad socio económica de las comunidades***, sigue siendo una de las variables centrales para el desarrollo de iniciativas autosustentables. Si bien es cierto que al VillaTEC asisten niños de escasos recursos, que no pueden tener acceso a un computador desde sus hogares, y tampoco pueden pagar el alto costo de los servicios tecnológicos, ellos cuentan con los recursos mínimos para pagar los servicios que ofrece el TEC. En este caso aunque sólo el 52% de la población económicamente activa de Villa Fundación tiene ingresos fijos, hay un 28% adicional que recibe remesas del exterior.

Main findings

Lessons Learned:

- ***La autogestión comunitaria como estrategia de desarrollo local***, representa una de las lecciones más contundentes de este Caso de Estudio, mientras antes la solución de problemas simples tardaba días y meses esperando por los técnicos del nivel central de la SEE, ahora los problemas se resuelven en minutos y horas. Esta lección cuestiona de manera enfática el modelo centralizado de la gestión educativa dominicana, y de manera muy especial las iniciativas de desarrollo de proyectos que implican el uso de las tecnologías de la información y la comunicación.
- ***La articulación de alianzas en la misma dirección aunque de diferentes sentidos***, parece ser la clave del éxito en estos tiempos en que el conocimiento y la información no pueden concentrarse exclusivamente en una persona, entidad o grupo. La lección del VillaTEC nos dice que cuando las alianzas se orientan hacia objetivos comunes, es decir la misma dirección, y ponen a disposición de los proyectos sus fortalezas particulares, las metas son alcanzables más fácilmente.

VillaTEC: A model to follow..!

Gracias