

dot-EDU

Using information and communication technologies to improve learning systems

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dot-EDU Quarterly Report

January - March 2003



Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC)



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dot-EDU tracking sheet

**dot-EDU Quarterly Report
January – March 2003**

Executive Summary

This is the second quarterly report of the second year of dot-EDU, covering the period from January through March, 2003. A major activity was the start-up of the largest associate award: Technology Tools for Teaching and Training in India (funded by USAID/India). There were other meetings in the region. Following a stakeholder meeting in Bangalore on February 14, dot-EDU director William Wright met with USAID Sri Lanka and USAID Bangladesh to explore the potential of associate awards.

The dot-EDU associate awards that were signed at the end of this quarter are in the table below. The final four in this table (in bold) were signed this quarter:

Associate Award	Amount (not counting cost share)
Guatemala	999,056
Rwanda	484,960
Haiti	2,999,552
Mali	635,046
India	5,500,000
DRC	1,199,886
Sudan assessment	74,365
Namibia iNET (signed 1/2/03)	994,966
Lebanon (signed 1/29/03)	50,000
Zambia (signed 2/4/03)	3,178,018
Sudan radio service (signed 3/12/03)	3,600,000
Total	19,715,849

The associate awards signed in this quarter include Namibia iNET, Lebanon, Zambia, and Sudan Radio. A project tracker is attached to the end of this report. It will give more details about start dates, end dates, cost share, and contacts. Other associate awards were being discussed during this period, but not signed yet, include ones in Namibia (GDA), Honduras (IRI), Yemen, and Macedonia.

During this period there were TDYs to India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh Namibia, DRC, Macedonia, and Congo. There were also new pilot projects (or core-funded activities) taking shape. One involved having a policy expert take part in the "ICTs and African Schools" workshop April 27-May 2. Another pilot was being planned with dot-EDU partners INNOTECH and IBM.

1. Activities during this quarter

As in the previous quarter, much of the work of this quarter involved implementing associate awards. For example, EDC staff continued to work in India to set up an office and meet with stakeholders. TDYs in this period included those by Nadya Karim-Shaw to India, Bob Spielvogel to India, and William Wright to India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh (Section 4. "Other Activities" gives more details). There were also TDYs to Namibia, DRC, and Mali. An associate award in Namibia (iNET) was signed on January 2, 2003, and an associate award in Zambia was signed in February. In this quarter dot-EDU began to send weekly "action updates" to USAID/Washington.

2. Associate Awards

The table shows the active associate awards as the quarter ended. Since the individual awards (cooperative agreements) send quarterly reports, we will not repeat the information here. The tracking sheet at the end of this document gives additional information.

Associate Award (& date signed)	Amount (not counting cost share)
Guatemala (6/6/02)	999,056
Rwanda (7/3/02)	484,960
Haiti (9/1/02)	2,999,552
Mali (7/1/02)	635,046
India (9/02)	5,500,000
DRC (9/30/02)	1,199,886
Sudan assessment (12/2/02)	74,365
Namibia iNET (signed 1/2/03)	994,966
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Total	19,715,849

Associate awards signed this quarter (in bold on above table)

Namibia iNET (Initiative for Namibian Educational Technology): Designed to speed the adoption of information and communication technologies (ICTs) within the Namibian education system, iNET will work both at the school and Ministerial level to foster the development of technology champions and improve ICT policies throughout Namibia. iNET will accomplish three main activities to strengthen teaching capacity in Namibia:

- Revamp the existing Teacher Resource Centers housed in teachers colleges. (TRC's) in the towns of Windhoek, Ongwadeva, Rundu, and Katima.

- Network all 13 regional offices of the Ministry of Basic Education, Sport, and Culture, (MBESC), in order to increase access to educational data, used to inform policy development and planning.
- Establish networked computer labs in the Colleges of Education. These labs will include peripherals and Internet connectivity.

Lebanon: The dot-EDU Associate Award in Lebanon, YouthCaN Med Technology & Environment in the Classroom is a program that uses new technologies to enhance the understanding of environmental issues and to stimulate students to take steps in their local communities to address those issues. It links students and teachers engaged in environmental projects and enables young people to come together and share how they are using technology to tackle environmental problems. Dot-EDU issued a subcontract to resource partner IEARN so that they could start these activities.

Zambia: An associate award was signed for \$3.2 million over the next 21 months as a follow-on to the grant implemented by EDC over the last two years. The same international advisors continue to work on this project, but additional Zambian staff are in process of being hired. Grade 5 radio programs for mathematics, language arts, science and social studies are in development and programs for earlier grades are being reviewed and revised.

Sudan: An independent radio service for southern Sudan.

A recent USAID/OTI assessment team determined that a lack of access to information in southern Sudan, particularly regarding the Machakos peace process, is a significant problem. Given Sudan's great size, topography and widespread illiteracy, it has been determined that the best choice for the dissemination of information would be the use of Short Wave Radio.

Currently, regional language radio programs have been limited to the northern part of Sudan. The need for local language programs in the south is great. As such, EDC, in conjunction with USAID/OTI, is working towards the creation of an independent broad-based, development-focused radio service that would broadcast in local languages to the populations of southern Sudan.

The radio service will present a diverse mix of timely and relevant programming broadcast in Sudanese languages by Sudanese presenters. Production of the radio service will be implemented by an EDC field office studio in Nairobi, Kenya, until the political climate allows for relocation to southern Sudan. Transmission will be established from a shortwave transmitter based outside Kenya and the Sudan.

The primary goal of the radio service is to link the ongoing peace process and peace building efforts with initiatives that engender good governance and deepen the participation of southern Sudanese in affairs that most affect them. The station will

increase access to balanced and useful information through programs of information, education, and entertainment chosen to equip listeners with knowledge and tools to participate more fully in peace making, reconciliation, and national development. Efforts will be made to create occasional programming in all the languages of southern Sudan, but regular programming will target speakers of Dinka, Nuer, Juba-Arabic, and English.

The Southern Sudan Radio Service (illustrative working title) seeks, through the design of its programming, to be a potent symbol and example for the new Sudan, in which all cultures and traditions are valued and celebrated within a context of mutual respect and admiration.

3. Pilot projects and case studies

An extensive report on pilot projects and core-funded activities was included in the last quarterly report. Planning was started for the dot-EDU's involvement in the "ICTs in African Schools" workshop to be held in Gaborone, Botswana, starting April 27th. dot-EDU staff also held a conference call with INNOTECH officials and discussed a pilot that involved the use of the IBM strategic planning toolkit. Other pilots underway or being planned include:

Pilot	Start date	Dot-EDU support	Cost share
Uganda IT/HIV	Jan 2002	35,000	280,000
Rwanda/ Uganda	Sep 2002	30,000	200,000
Peru	Mar 2002	10,000	80,000
Southeast Asia	starting	10,000	100,000
Ghana	Mar 2002	3,000	18,000
Ghana/Kenya	Mar 2003	30,000	40,000
ICT survey	starting	14,000	80,000
Botswana	starting	8,000	50,000
South Africa	Sep 2002	50,000	200,000
Total		190,000	1,048,000

4. Other activities

On January 9th dot-EDU provided a briefing for the Basic Education Team at USAID/Washington.

The dot-EDU team arranged for a one-day workshop on January 17th for a visiting group of African professionals. The theme was "Building a Sense of Community through Radio and Information Technology." The group was primarily interested in getting a basic introduction to uses of IT in education, but also in democracy-building and civil

society sectoral applications. The participants were already in the US on a tour sponsored by the Africa-America Institute (AAI) in New York.

Bangladesh. Bill Wright went to Dhaka on February 19th and met with USAID early on the 20th. The first meeting was with Al Fleming, Enterprise Development Officer. Also attending the meeting was Imran Shauket, project director for a USAID-funded project called JOBS (assisting enterprises to create employment). There was interest in having dot-EDU propose interventions that fit with ICT team's goals of creating more human capacity. (We agreed that we would brainstorm with dot-EDU staff, with Lizzie Range, and with Jonathan Metzger and come up with some suggestions.) There was also a meeting with the education team (Carol Horning, Caryle Cammisa, and Deborah Llewellyn). They needed to find out more about funding and strategy approval. They (like the team in Sri Lanka) had questions about the use of ICT materials to help teach English.

Sri Lanka. Bill Wright met with stakeholders in Colombo on February 15-18th -- and with those at the mission late on Feb 18th (Tue). Most of the stakeholders were in higher education and would like to see university-to-university linkages. There was also a meeting with staff at the Vocation Training Authority (VTA) and Worldview International Foundation (the latter is in the ePeace Bridge proposal). Mission Director Carol Becker seemed to be more interested in workforce development and the ePeace Bridge proposal that was proposed by Jonathan Metzger and Lizzie Range (not chosen by the GDA review committee, but Carol is willing to fund). During the short TDY (after stakeholder meetings in India) there were meetings with: Pradeep Liyanamana, Director of a USAID-funded project called The Competitiveness Initiative, T. I Jamaldeen, ICT Cluster specialist with The Competitiveness Initiative, Dr. Lalith Gamage, CEO Sri Lanka Institute of Information Technology (SLIIT), the University Grants Commission -- Standing Committee on IT, the University of Colombo School of Computing (UCSC) Prof. V.K, Samaranayake, Director, the University of Moratuwa (Prof. Malik Ranasinghe), the Vocational Training Authority, and the WorldView International Foundation. Other staff at the meeting at USAID were Jeffrey Allen, Director, Office of Economic Growth, Michael J. Desisti, Special Projects Officer, and Sarasali Fonseka.

Honduras: In response to an RFA received from USAID/Honduras, EDC is preparing, on behalf of dot-EDU, a technical application and financial plan for a two-year associate award to develop an *Interactive Radio Instruction (IRI) Based Preschool Program*. The application will be submitted to the Mission on or before March 12. The principal goal of the program will be to achieve greater efficiency of student learning and reduction of student failure rates in primary education in Honduras through development and demonstration of a one-year, high-quality program of pre-school kindergarten education that can be offered with annual recurrent costs of about one half of those of the current national pre-school program.

Macedonia. A consultant from dot-EDU worked with two dot-ORG staff members to shape a draft program description for USAID/Macedonia.

Yemen. There were discussions about a project in Yemen that works with dot-EDU resource partner, I*EARN.

5. Issues and recommendations

One issue that emerged this quarter involved cost share in a GDA award. USAID/Namibia received funding from GDA and wanted dot-EDU to manage (as an associate award) a project involving SchoolNet Namibia and partners. One of our core partners was to take on as a subcontract. There was hesitation since the dot-EDU core partner did not feel there was firm documentation about the cost share. While there was some discussion about this at an earlier DOT-COM managers' meeting, it needs further clarification. There was some discussion that cost share under dot-EDU is simply "leverage" but that needs to be put in a statement so EDC and AED contracting offices can understand it. An associate award (Namibia GDA) that should have been signed in January, is being delayed due to this contracting issue. We suggest that USAID provide guidance for contracting offices.

Another issue is related to the staff needed when core there are ten associate awards and a number of core-funded activities to manage. There is a need for a communications specialist, yet this was not put in the budget. Bill Wright and Steve Dorsey have discussed options, given the communications and reporting demands. We have created a job description for a communications person and hope to find a way to support such a position with core funds.

6. Looking ahead to the next quarter

The implementation of associate awards and core-funded activities is becoming more demanding. As this quarter ends there are eleven signed associate awards (with three others about to be signed). There are also a number of pilots and core-funded activities such as the upcoming workshop in Gaborone, the ICT survey, and the MIT project in Ghana and Kenya. We hope, in the next quarter, to sign associate awards with Namibia GDA, Honduras, Macedonia, and Yemen.

dot-EDU Tracker (as of 3-31-03)							
	Countries	Project	Award Numbers	Project dates	dot-EDU	Cost Share	Total
Awards							
Sonia Arias	Guatemala	Building on Proyecto Enlance in Quiche	520-A-00-02-00109-00	6/6/02- 2/5/04	\$ 999,056.00	\$ 278,190	\$ 1,277,246.00
William Wright	Rwanda	KIE connectivity	623-A-00-02-00064-00	7/3/2002-7/2/2004	\$ 484,960.00	\$ 150,000	\$ 634,960.00
Steve Anzalone	Haiti	Global Comm and Learning Systems	521-A-00-02-00069-00	9/1/2002 - 9/2004	\$ 2,999,552.53		\$ 2,999,552.53
Sonia Arias	Mali	University to University Linkage	688-G-00-02-00063-00	7/1/2002-9/2003	\$ 635,046.00	\$ 173,049	\$ 808,095.00
Nadya Karim-Shaw William Wright	India	Technology Tools for teaching and training in India	GDG-A-00-02-00015-00	9/2002- 9/2005	\$ 5,500,000.00		\$ 5,500,000.00
Sonia Arias	DR Congo	Complementary Instructional Strategies (CIS)and Telecenters	623-A-00-02-00114-00	9/30/2002 -9/30/2003	\$ 1,199,886.99		\$ 1,199,886.99
Mike & Bill	Sudan	Assessment/ Design for a Sudan independent radio station	HDA-A-03-00022-00	12/2/2002-1/6/2003	\$ 74,365.00		\$ 74,365.00
Lisa	Sudan (AFR)	Southern Sudan Radio Service	HDA-A-03-00105-00	3/12/2003-3/2005	\$ 3,600,000.00	\$ 500,000	\$ 4,100,000.00
Nadya/Bill	Namibia	iNET	690-A-00-03-00002-00	1/2/03-7/31/05	\$994,966		\$ 994,966.00
Bill	Lebanon	YouthCan I*earn	268-G-00-03-00215-00	1/29/03-1/28/04	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 19,000	\$ 69,000.00
Mike	Zambia	IRI	690-G-00-01-00120-00	2/4/03-9/30/04	\$ 3,178,018.00		\$ 3,178,018.00
Total					\$ 19,715,850.52	\$ 1,120,239	\$ 20,836,089.52
Pending Awards							
Nadya/Bill	Namibia	GDA (School Net)		3 years	\$ 1,200,000.00		\$ 1,200,000.00
Steve A	Honduras	IRI		2 years	\$ 2,900,000.00		\$ 2,900,000.00
Janice B.	Macedonia	ICT for 1er , 2nd Educ.		3 years	\$ 3,000,000.00		\$ 3,000,000.00
Total					\$ 7,100,000.00		\$ 7,100,000.00
Potential Awards							
	Peru	Strategic Planning for Computers with the MOE			\$ 550,000.00		\$ 550,000.00
	Djibouti	Assistant for TDY					
	Sri Lanka	University Linkage					
	Dom. Republic	Improving quality of Ed with IRI for Teacher Training and 2 grades of primary school					\$ -
Total					\$ 550,000.00		\$ 550,000.00
Pilots							
	Pilot	Start date	Dot-EDU support	Cost share			
	Uganda IT/HIV	Jan-02	35,000	280,000			
	Rwanda/ Uganda	Sep-02	30,000	200,000			
	Peru	Mar-02	10,000	80,000			
	Southeast Asia	starting	10,000	100,000			
	Ghana	Mar-03	3,000	18,000			
	Ghana/Kenya	Mar-02	30,000	40,000			
	ICT survey	starting	14,000	80,000			
	Botswana	Apr-03	8,000	50,000			
	South Africa	Sep-02	50,000	200,000			
	Total		190,000	1,048,000			