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Innovative Public Libraries:

Generating-Implementing-Sustaining

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www.eifl.net

Who we are

EIFL is an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to enabling access to knowledge through libraries in more than 60 developing and transition countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

Core Initiatives

- Access to Knowledge for Education, Learning and Research

  – ensuring well-resourced libraries, modern ICT infrastructure and skilled staff to provide essential support to students and scholars.

- **Access to Knowledge for Sustainable Community Development**

  – **transforming lives through innovative services in public / community libraries.**

EIFL Programmes

- EIFL-Licensing

- EIFL-OA: open access

- EIFL-IP: copyright and libraries

- EIFL-FOSS: free and open source software

- **EIFL-PLIP: Public Library Innovation Programme**
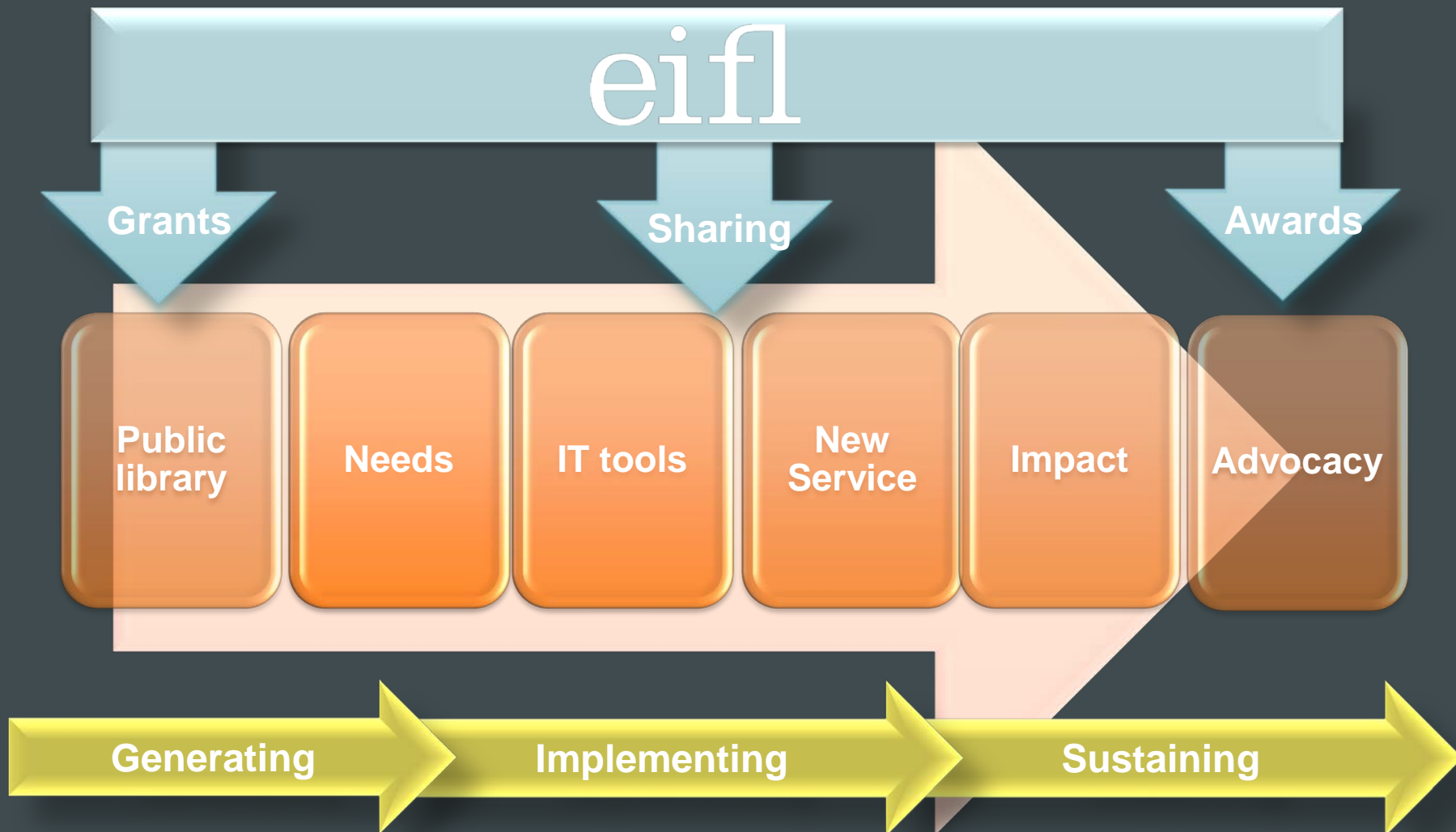
Perceptions of public libraries...

EIFL-PLIP context

- Technology offers public libraries new opportunities to increase access to knowledge, helping to improve standards of living and transform lives.

- Yet, in most countries where the need is greatest, public libraries are under-resourced.

- EIFL supports public libraries to use technology creatively to develop innovative services to meet the needs of their communities.
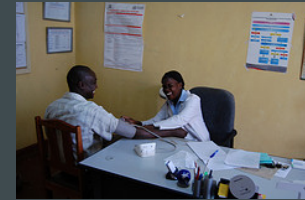
An innovative service

- *has never been done in this place before*

- *has never focused on this target group before*

- *has never done in this partnership before*

- *has never done properly before*

- *has never used technology (or a particular kind of technology) before*

'A path to change'

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Grants   Sharing   Awards

| Public library | Needs | IT tools | New Service | Impact | Advocacy |

Generating → Implementing → Sustaining →

PLIP results

39 innovative public library services to meet community needs in 23 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America

EIFL-PLIP in Africa

- **Small grants to start 18 innovative services in Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia**

- **Six-Country Africa Library Perception Study**

- **3 Innovation Awards**

Stay connected

- ramune.petuchovaite@eifl.net

- Website - www.eifl.net

- Online newsletter - www.eifl.net/subscribe

- Mailing lists for EIFL programmes

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Mobile Library Internet Service for Development

Ghana library authority / Volta regional library

Alikem Tamakloe

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Ho Municipality: the District Profile

- a land area of 2660sq.km

- 772 communities

- total population of 271,881(average of 352.2 people per community)

- Men make 47.51per cent and females 52.49 per cent of total population.

- 65.8% of the population live in rural areas and 34.2 live in the urban areas.

Problem / Need Identified

- Computer and internet skills are compulsory subjects for Junior High School students (ages 11-16) in Ghana.

- However, many schools do not have computers, internet connections or electricity, and so the students cannot practice.

- As a result, they fail their ICT exams and cannot progress to secondary school.

Solution

- Volta Regional Library is helping reduce exams' failure rates by giving children in poor, rural parts of Ho Municipality hands on computer lessons

- Applied for external funding to equip its mobile library service with five laptop computers with educational software, a solar system and a digital resources

- Created partnerships with the technology support agency TechAide, schools and radio stations

- Scheduled weekly visits to 5 communities: Ziavi Dzogbe, Ziavi Lume, Klefe Achatime, Deme Fiave and Taviefe

Implementation

- Each school was visited once in a week for 21 weeks

- The total number of visits made to the schools -105

- A total of 215 children, between the ages of 11 and19 benefited from the service.
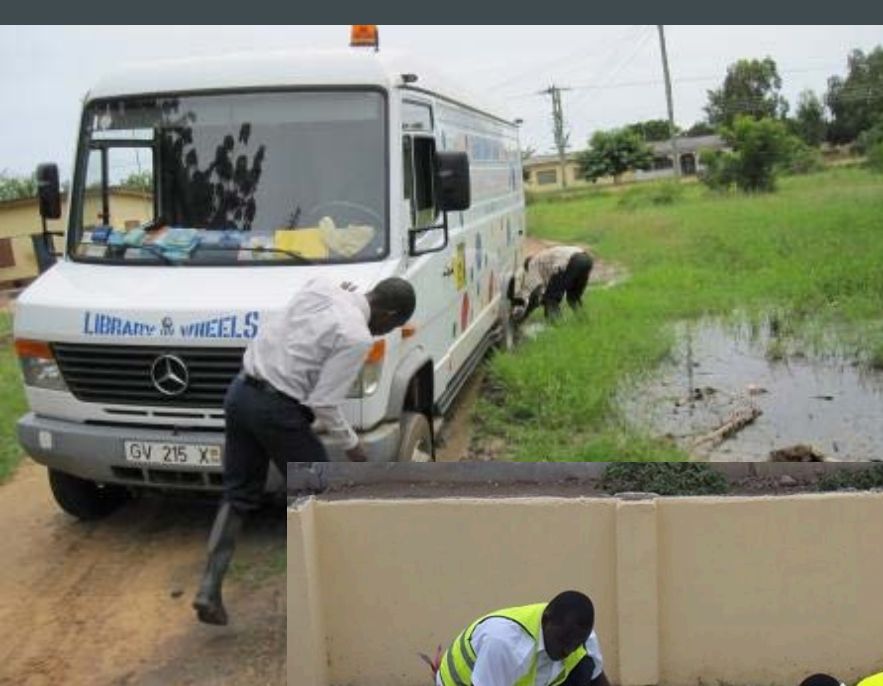
Outcomes & Impact

'In the past, my students did not have the opportunity to relate to computers. Now they can see everything in real terms because they are able to interact with computers. They are also learning through educational games, and this helps build their skills and talents. Now they can handle computers confidently!'

– Mawuli Amenya, ICT teacher, Ziavi Lume Methodist Junior High School

'I can create a shortcut and open an email programme. I also have confidence in moving the mouse. The books borrowed from the library have improved my reading skills.'

– Dzanku Ophelia of Klefe Achatime Junior High School.

The future

More about the service:

- http://www.eifl.net/ghana-library-board-mobile-library-service

- tamakloealikem@yahoo.com