



## E-Forum “Sustainable Development Goals: The Impact of Access to Information on our Societies”

### USE CASES FROM THE E-FORUM DISCUSSION

A number of examples and stories – divided in two clusters “**ACCESS TO INFORMATION**” and “**OPEN ACCESS**” – about the impact of access to information on sustainable development were contributed during the e-Forum in September 2015.

#### ACCESS TO INFORMATION:

- **Implementation of the right of “access to information”** in Madagascar
- **Healthcare Information for All (HIFA)**, global health network
- **DGroups**, platform to connect experts in Communities of Practice (CoPs)
- **Development Reality Institute/ The Data Curation Center**, planned online repository
- **HINARI** (applies to all Research4Life programmes), enabling access to research publications

#### OPEN ACCESS:

- **The Urban Unit / UU Learning Resource Center**, provision of Open Access materials
- **ITACAB Andrés Bello**, provision of Open Access materials in the agricultural sector
- **NECOBELAC network in Europe and Latin America**, network to reinforce open access principles

#### ACCESS TO INFORMATION

##### Implementation of the right of "access to information"

Outreach: Madagascar

**Purpose:** Reinforcement of the right "access to information" of the national constitution in Madagascar, Promote culture of transparency and accountability in Public Administration with respect to citizen's right to information

**Measures:** Strategic: advocating for access to information, creation of a platform to enable access to information

**Technical:** reinforcing capacity building: with an association of information professionals

**Sensibilization:** addition of an appropriate concept of culture of transparency in the charter of access to information, collaboration with media and civil society

**Original contribution from Josvah Rabiaza in the thread "Welcome to e-forum on 'Sustainable Development Goals: The impact of Access to Information on our Societies' ", 9. September 2015**

*"I thank both of you too for sharing your point of view Right to information (and practically access to information) is not a real new thing for us as it is already stipulated in the article 19 of the Human right declaration. For us in Madagascar, it is also mentioned by in our national constitution. Now, many international, continental, regional, local charters reinforce it.*

*The great question is : "how to implement it really and practically as we recognize that culture to secret dominates, especially in Public Administration ; how to renverse an old tradition "Secret as norm with exceptions to transparency" as norm with exceptions ?"*

*I would like to share with you our perspectives post 2015 in promoting transparency via access to information, as I already have done it in a session at IFLA CONGRESS 2015 in Cape Town in last August.*

*Those perspectives have been included in the implementation plan of our Malagasy National Development Plan (2015-2019) last April 2015. One of the goals in our National Development Plan is :*

- *Objective (goal) : rehabilitate Administration and establish Authority of the State*
- *Specific objectives (goal): promote culture of transparence and accountability ; Develop culture of information, transparency and accountability in Public Administration and with respect of citizens' right to information.*

*So, we will plan to realize some activities :*

**\*Strategic step\*:** *continue in advocating and developing promotion of access to information, => with platform of access to information (a charter has been elaborated and signed in 2013 by public and private sectors to demand their engagement in access to information). it will be continued in 2016 as many ministries did not yet signed the charter.*

**\*Technical step\*:** *develop a mechanism of access to information; reinforcing capacity buildings*

*=> with Association of Information Professionals.*

**\*Sensibilisation step\*:** *appropriate of the concept of culture of transparency, all principles in charter of access to information,*

*=> with Medias and Civil Society*

*If you have comment, suggestion, do not hesitate to contact me or share it during this e-forum. We recognize that realizing those activities seems difficult as they need Public Authorities's acceptation, engagement even political will.*

Thanks you for our contribution in this e-forum.

*\*Reyna Josvah-Rabiaza\**

*\*Junior manager in Documentation and Information at Committee for Safeguard of Integrity (CSI) Antananarivo MADAGASCAR\**

*\*President of Information and Library Professionnals Association\**

*\*Member of standard committee of Government Libraries Section IFLA (2015-2019)\*"*

## **Healthcare Information for All (HIFA)**

**Outreach:** International

**Purpose:** Provision of Healthcare information for all

**Measures:** Maintenance of a professional global health network (five global email discussion forums (HIFA Global Forums) in three languages (English, French, Portuguese), 15,000 health workers/librarians/researchers etc. Connected. Collaboration with other health/development organizations: WHO, CHILD2015, HIFA-Portuguese HIFA-EVIPNet-French, HIFA-Zambia

### **Original contribution from Neil Pakenham-Walsh in the thread “my opinion answer of proposed question 1”, 7. September 2015**

*“I am delighted to take part in this discussion. I would like to access the importance of access to health information, and especially healthcare information (the information needed to recognise health needs and to take appropriate action, as for example in the case of common but life-threatening childhood illness in LMICs).*

*I invite all with an interest in health information to join the professional global health network HIFA (Healthcare Information For All), which works in cooperation with WHO.*

*HIFA (Healthcare Information For All) has more than 15,000 health workers, librarians, publishers, researchers and policymakers, committed to accelerate progress towards the HIFA Vision: a world where every person has access to the healthcare information they need to protect their own health and the health of others - people will no longer be dying for lack of knowledge. One-third of members are based in Africa, one-third in Europe, and one-third in the rest of the world. HIFA members represent more than 2500 organisations across 171 countries worldwide, and interact on five global email discussion forums (HIFA Global Forums) in three languages (English, French, Portuguese).*

*To join (free), please go to [www.hifa2015.org](http://www.hifa2015.org) and click on Join. Then email your message to: [hifa2015@dgroups.org](mailto:hifa2015@dgroups.org)*

*Best wishes,*

*Neil*

*Let’s build a future where people are no longer dying for lack of healthcare knowledge - Join HIFA: [www.hifa2015.org](http://www.hifa2015.org)*

*Dr Neil Pakenham-Walsh MB,BS, DCH, DRCOG*

*HIFA Coordinator*

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## DGroups - "Development Through Dialogue"

**Outreach:** International

**Purpose:** Connecting experts, Vision: A world where every person is able to contribute to dialogue and decision-making for international development and social justice.

**Measures:** A partnership of 23 international development organizations, Provision of a platform to create Communities of Practice (CoPs)-over 700 CoPs supported

### **Original contribution from Neil Pakenham-Walsh in the thread "Welcome to community Sustainable Development Goals - The role of DGroups", 9. September 2015**

*"I think you make a very important point when you say "Sustainable Development is best achieved by having access to information, sharing and networking". Indeed, it could be asserted that "Sustainable Development can only be achieved by having access to information, sharing and networking".*

*Over the past 10-20 years we are entering an unprecedented and exciting era with the technological potential to connect all stakeholders working for international development and the SDGs. Communities of practice like this one [sdgs-impact-access-information-societies] will have an increasing role and will become ever more capable of not only giving more and more people a voice, but also to harness these voices in ways that can help inform policy and practice.*

*This CoP - [sdgs-impact-access-information-societies] - is one of over 700 Communities of Practice supported by the Dgroups Foundation, a partnership of 23 international development organisations (including FAO, DFID and SDC) with a common vision: A world where every person is able to contribute to dialogue and decision-making for international development and social justice. We are currently expanding and we welcome new partners: [www.dgroups.info](http://www.dgroups.info)*

*Best wishes, Neil*

*Neil Pakenham-Walsh*

*Chair, Dgroups Foundation*

*[www.dgroups.info](http://www.dgroups.info)*

*Dgroups: Working for a world where every person is able to contribute to dialogue and decision-making for international development and social justice.*

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## Development Reality Institute/ The Data Curation Centre

**Outreach:** Virtual / Zimbabwe

**Purpose:** Greater exposure of new ideas and knowledge to various categories of people

**Measures:** Not yet implemented. Note on the website: "Coming Soon! A repository and information hub for Sustainable Development issues. Leveraging technology for development."

**Original contribution from Hosea Tokwe in the thread "e-forum", 11. September 2015, also see [www.sdgs.org.zw](http://www.sdgs.org.zw) for more information**

*"What are ways that access to information contributes to sustainable development?  
I was recently invited to a Summit hosted by the Development Reality Institute whose theme was.. "Leveraging online and offline technologies – Leaving no one behind in Achieving the SDGs" It was a full day's conferencing with lively that helped to appraise participants on national state of preparedness in the adopting the Sustainable Development Goals, (SDGs). The conference also presented new Open Data tools ahead of the adoption of the SDGs and explored collaborative approaches in managing Open Data for achievement of SDGs. The contributions, suggestions and opinions from different stakeholders, brought greater enlightenment on why governments have decided to adopt SGDs.*

*Development Reality Institute([www.dri.org](http://www.dri.org)) is coming up with a website([www.sdgs.org.zw](http://www.sdgs.org.zw)) and a brand "BRAND IDENTITY" and a motto "A plan of action for People, Planet and Prosperity". It will be introductory website that will add more hyperlinks as it grows. But of interest is the "SDGs Virtual School" where one will be able to register "Basic to Advanced Courses". It will also have a "Data Curation Centre" for repository of information and validation of information.*

*Availing information from such platforms as websites brings greater exposure of new ideas and knowledge to various categories of people and unparalleled access to contemporary issues that will open the minds of the marginalised communities in our midst.*

*Thus of the objectives of SDGs can be achieved, when this information is passed on to chiefs, headmen, local councillors and MPs, like in my country Zimbabwe where parliamentary portfolios committees can be engaged to debate and issue of importance in the Parliament thus helping cascading information to the decision makers.*

*Sincerely,*

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### HINARI (applies to all Research4Life programmes)

**Outreach:** Developing Countries

**Purpose:** access to research publications (for HINARI: specific to health sector)

**Measures:** Enabling research entities from low- and middle income countries to access research publications from major publishers

**Original contribution from Hosea Tokwe in the thread “Re: [Dgroups] Welcome to community Sustainable Development Goals: The Impact of Access to Information on our Societies”, 8. September 2015**

*“Well said Temba Malapela. Sustainable Development is best achieved by having access to information, sharing and networking. Professional Conferences are useful platforms where information professionals can discuss and share. When we talk of access we talk of ability to access online databases and e-resources, and such databases as HINARI when made available to libraries that in turn avail them to lecturers and students will contribute towards research output that will not be only shared at academia level but will be implemented and used towards training rural farmers for sustainable agriculture that will help to transform the rural outlook and contribute to better living standards.*

*I must say I am enjoying this lively discussion and learning a lot.*

*Regards,*

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### OPEN ACCESS

#### The Urban Unit/ UU Learning Resource Center

(Urban Sector Planning Management Service Unit Pvt Ltd.: A public sector Company at Lahore Pakistan)

**Outreach:** Pakistan

**Purpose:** Provision open access awareness materials about urbanization, water and sanitation, waste management etc. to support definition of problems and find solutions in the sector, include citizens for active participation in urban/local measures

**Measures:** Open access provision of..

- ..of awareness material about local issues on urbanization for a specific province

- ..of electronically published print editions of publications

**Further measures:**

- dissemination of material to local governments, researchers students...
- organization of events, surveys, seminars, social media tools free for everyone

**Original contribution from Shahar Bano Faizi in the thread “my opinion answer of proposed question 1”, 7. September 2015**

*“as a case study I'll narrate here The Urban Unit (Urban Sector Planning Management Service Unit Pvt Ltd.: A public sector Company at Lahore Pakistan) initiatives and role for sustainable development. through open access we provided awareness materials electronically on website, published the print editions of publications, conducted the awareness events for the information of our team, researchers and public as well. UU Learning Resource Center always provided information sources and tools on related issues with goal of the easy access to information by following intellectual property and copy rights and ethics.*

*In results, our team got helpful material and sources to get knowledge and information about local issues and problems on urbanization, water and sanitation, waste management, municipal finance, transportation and governance matters in Pakistan and specially in the province of Punjab. Local Govts. took initiatives according to/in the result of Urban Unit participations. Research Scholars, students and writers (national & international) used the information to define the development problems, to investigate and research and to set and design the problem solutions through their research works by using the UU Learning Resource Center and information access.*

*That Research Works through the Unit/ in the Unit showed the new paths and set new goals for sustainable development and played role for active participation of institutions, government bodies and citizens. Similarly, information access for public (citizens) is always welcome by The Urban Unit. Free printed matter, free e-matter, conversational sessions, stalls, information booths on visits, events, seminars, social media tools disseminated the facts and figures, issues and necessary information. This sharing and dissemination as per open access gave awareness to citizens and push them to play role for improved and qualitative lives and sustainable development. They participated in different occasions positively.*

*The Urban Unit role to conduct surveys, in the cities of Punjab for Water & Sanitation, urban development, economic growth and poverty its implementations, Participation in Metro Bus System Lahore and transport project in Lahore and others, eco environment and tourism, Geographic Information System based projects for education, health, food, disasters are the good examples of open access information goals, and impacts to inclusive societies for sustainable development.*

*related links are given here:*

*Urban Unit Learning resource Center*

*The Urban Unit*

*Iris Punjab*

*UU Publications*

*Regards*

*SHAHAR BANO FAIZILIBRARY MANAGER*

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## ITACAB Andrés Bello

**Outreach:** Latin America

**Purpose:** Open Information for the agricultural sector

**Measures:** Creation of a website to address small farmers " Centro de recursos para la transferencia tecnológica CRTT":

- Provision of technical data sheets with information on sectors that matter for development (agriculture, energy, health...)
- Consultations by Email, phone or in meetings
- Lessons learnt by ITACAB: Information should be simple and appropriate

**Original contribution from José Sánchez-Narvaez in the thread “Respuesta a preguntas”, 9. September 2015, see also <http://www.itacab.org/adminpub/web/> for more information**

*“Colegas todos, la experiencia de ITACAB, del Convenio Andrés Bello, es sobre la transferencia de tecnologías apropiadas para el desarrollo sostenible, su público objetivo fueron los pequeños productores y comuneros de los sectores rurales y urbano marginales de los países miembros: Bo, Co, Cl, Cu, Ec, Es, Mx, Pa, Pe, Py, RD y Ve.*

*Para difundir estas tecnologías apropiadas se creó la página Centro de recursos para la transferencia tecnológica CRTT, la que tiene dos opciones:*

- 433 fichas tecnológicas de acceso libre, con información muy simple y adecuada a las necesidades de sectores en pobreza y extrema pobreza de América latina. Dividida en 9 campos y 54 subcampos: Agricultura, agroindustria rural, construcción y vivienda, energía, salud y salubridad, organización, pesca y acuicultura y, zootecnia.
- Atención de consultas por email, teléfono o presencial en Lima Perú, donde se amplía la información sobre la ficha tecnológica de su interés y se complementa con documentos extensos, datos adicionales o referencias de instituciones o expertos que pueden ampliar sus requerimientos.

*Fichas Tecnológicas por Zonas de Vida*

*Fichas Tecnológicas por Zonas de VidaITACAB |*

*Ver en [www.itacab.org](http://www.itacab.org) | Vista previa por Yahoo |*

*Como un aporte adicional se ha creado mapas nacionales y uno regional ALC con las Zonas de Vida ITACAB (resumidas) donde son funcionales las tecnologías expuestas.*

*Esta experiencia nos permite contestar la primera pregunta con algunos alcances:*

- La información debe ser apropiada, en sus dos acepciones: porque cumple un rol en solucionar problemas existentes y, porque el usuario se la puede apropiar y usar libremente en su complejo sistema socioeconómico.
- Se atiende el pedido de información con datos precisos y con indicaciones de procesos adaptables a las condiciones locales.



- se da datos de referencia de expertos, instituciones y documentos que pueden complementar los requerimientos de los usuarios.
- se emplea lenguaje sencillo al alcance de todos y tratando de usar términos de uso común en todo ALC y usando sus nombres equivalentes.

Adjunto un documento que resume los términos y acepciones usadas por nosotros.

Atentamente

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## Dissemination of public health information: key tools utilised by the NECOBELAC network in Europe and Latin America

**Outreach:** Europe and Latin America

**Purpose:** Reinforce open access principles to promote a cultural change of traditional publishing practices.

**Measures:** Capacity building through a flexible and sustainable training programme on scientific writing and open access publishing; creation of training tools based on semantic web technologies; development of a network of supporting institutions

**Original contribution from Paola De Castro in the thread “e-forum starting today”, 8. September 2015, see also <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3440589/> for more information**

*“thank you for this very interesting discussions and hard work to promote information sharing for sustainable development goals at global level. I am a supporter of the Lyon Declaration and really appreciate HIFA's efforts in this regard and the implication of IFLA, FAO and COAR.*

*I work at the national institute of health in Italy and I am involved in cooperation activities in Latin America and the Sub Saharan Africa. Three continents (Europe, Latin America, Africa), witnessing a common effort to share health information at different levels, involving all stakeholders (researchers, editors, librarians, policy-makers, funders, patients, civil society, etc.).*

*I think the effort is not only technological, but it is mostly related to interpersonal relations. We should be able to find the appropriate language to make information clear and understandable to the different targets; and I do not only mean that local languages should be utilized, but also lay languages. It is important to find the best way to let people really understand the meaning of health-related information for health prevention and the benefits of utilizing it.*

*It is a question of responsibility: Researchers need the access to the most up-dated and valuable literature published in journal articles, editors should publish only reliable, open access information; patients need to be informed through other sources of information that they can really understand and use (including interpersonal communication), policymakers would need another language.*

*I think first step is creating awareness on the civil responsibility that everybody has in information transfer and the necessity to use the most appropriate communication strategies to really involve the different parties to play an active role in the information transfer process and take action.*

*We often used the "Train-the-trainer" approach which works at different levels, also within community health workers and patients' associations, and creates major involvement in those who learn and then become trainers at local level.*

*The experience carried out in Latin America and Europe as regard training in scientific writing and open access publishing is reported here <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3440589/>*

*The same train-the-trainer model is now being tested in the Tigray Region in Ethiopia, but before applying it we are working on focus groups with AIDS patients, nurses and community based associations to better understand the real needs of those who will take part in future training activities.*

*I am grateful to this list which contributes to create awareness on these issues and provides very useful information and opportunities to share experiences.*

*Best wishes*

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