1ST A4AI-GHANA COALITION MEETING

June 23, 2014, 8:30-15:00
Kofi Annan ICT Centre Of Excellence
Accra, Ghana

About A4AI

The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI) brings together prominent players from the private sector, public sector and civil society to provide a unified voice and coordinated focus in addressing the shared goal of open, affordable access to the Internet in the developing world. The Alliance aims to increase the affordability of both mobile and fixed-line Internet access dramatically, with a focus on achieving the UN Broadband Commission Broadband Target of entry-level broadband services priced at less than 5% of average monthly income.

Since the start of its work in Ghana, A4AI has held a successful 1st A4AI-Ghana Forum in which a number of priority issues were identified. These priority challenges undermine efforts to increase access and affordability to broadband in Ghana. Since the 1st A4AI-Ghana Forum, Ghanaian stakeholders have formed the A4AI-Ghana Coalition and chosen to join working groups that will work on each of the issues identified. The 1st A4AI-Ghana Coalition meeting will provide a platform for the working groups to begin developing their work plans.

Objectives and Outline of the A4AI Key Stakeholder Forum

The 1st A4AI Ghana Coalition meeting is the second A4AI event to take place in Ghana and follows the highly successful 1st A4AI-Ghana Forum, held in Accra on February 11, 2014. Scheduled to take place at the Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence on June 23, 2014 in Accra, the primary objective of the 1st A4AI-Ghana Coalition meeting is for coalition members to develop work plans that will guide their work on their respective priority issue.

Participants at the meeting will gain further insights into the priority issues and how these affect broadband access and affordability in Ghana. These priority issues are data collection and research to develop evidence-based policy and decisions; taxation; infrastructure sharing and open access; and pricing transparency, including users’ awareness of services.

During the meeting, participants will also learn how the priority issues have been resolved in other countries through the review of global best practice; decide on the activities they and their fellow working group members will undertake to tackle the issues in Ghana; what outputs might be produced; and what risks might be faced as they try to execute the activities in the work plan.

The following presents the agenda for the 1st A4AI- Ghana Coalition meeting.
AGENDA
Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence
8:30-15:00, Monday, 23rd June 2014

8:30 Networking Breakfast and Registration

9:00 Introduction of the Agenda and Plan for the Day

9:15-11:00: Panel on Priority Issues: Understanding the Windows of Opportunity
Participants will examine those priority issues the Coalition is addressing. Namely:

1. Data collection/research to develop solid evidence for policy decision making — this area of engagement will include research on the following items:
   • USF sustainability and assessment of Fund effectiveness
   • Mapping of Ghana’s infrastructure
   • Inclusion and consideration of different groups of population and perspectives (gender analysis; people with disabilities; rural populations)
2. Taxation
3. Infrastructure sharing (in the context of an open access model)
4. Pricing transparency; user awareness of services

A mix of local and international stakeholders will examine each issue in respect of:
   • The Issue: Why it is an issue/challenge in Ghana? (i.e., In what way is it undermining or delaying greater Internet and Broadband affordability and usage?)
   • The goals: What objectives and goals should be achieved if we are to resolve the issue? What is the ideal outcome taking into account the Ghana context?
   • Possible options: How might the issues be resolved or mitigated? Examination of best practices used elsewhere; which stakeholders are most important.

11:00-11:15 Working Refreshment Break

11:15 Working Group Sessions
This session will provide an opportunity for participants to begin the development of the work plans for each working group. The A4AI team will explain the structure of work plans, how they should be developed and how they will be used. The working groups for each priority issue will then work in their groups to begin drafting their own work plans, which will detail objectives, outputs, activities, a timeline for completing the activities, partners and responsibilities, and potential risks and challenges.

12:30 Working Lunch
Participants will use the working lunch to continue developing their work plans.

13:30 Reporting
The rapporteurs from each group will present their draft work plans to all participants. This is designed to be an interactive discussion between coalition members and should result in stronger work plans for each working group.

14:30 Coalition Schedule of Activities and Conclusion
The A4AI team will draw the meeting to a conclusion, outlining some of the key findings from the day and actions for the future, including the short term activities in each work plan, coalition-wide seminars/webinars and the next coalition meeting in Q3 of 2014.