

# Youth-centered Digital Inclusion Efforts in Ethiopia and Their Significance in Engaging the Youth in the DNS

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# Ethiopia: Country Profile

- Ethiopia is a country in the African sub-region of the Horn of Africa with close to 90 Million Population.
- It's a federal parliamentary system of government.
- It's monopolist telecom policy.

# Internet use and penetration

- Ethiopia has very low level of internet use and penetration.
- According to Internet World Statistics (2012), the internet penetration is 1.1%, i.e. only 960,331 of the population use the internet. Of the latter, the 902,440 uses the internet primarily for facebook purposes.
- Maplecrof's digital inclusion index(DII/2012) ranks Ethiopia the 3<sup>rd</sup> worst in terms of digital inclusion.

# Access to ICTs and Youth Participation in the DNS

- Youth's participation in the DNS hinges very much on the level of access to and awareness of ICTs, mainly the internet.
- The oblivion and limited access to the internet has stifled active youth participation in the DNS.
- Better access results better awareness which in turn results more participation.
- Youth Leagues are politically tainted than on internet policy matters.
- Possible forums for participation basically demand access to the internet. Eg. Remote participation, webinars.

# Recent Beckoning Efforts

- Microsoft Initiative for Africa -- launched March 2013.
- The Little Engineer(TLE) Project, launched in March 2013.
- Government Measures:
  - GTP
  - All inclusive telecom services
  - ICT park

# The way forward

- Recent moves flicker hope in engaging the use in youth in DNS but more is expected from stakeholders.
- Institutions such as ICANN shall design youth-focused strategies. [ICANN African Strategy]
- Participation through regional and sub-regional IGFs such as AfIGF and EAIGF shall be encouraged.
- Youth Associations shall also rethink their roles.