

# Filling the Connectivity Gap in Rural Communities

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# Points to be covered

- Connectivity Gaps in rural areas
- Community based model to fill the gaps
- Adapting the model in Africa through partnerships

# Connectivity in the Context of Community

**Access &  
Infrastructure**



**Applications  
& Education**

**Community  
Content**

# A Model for Filling the Connectivity Gaps Rural Communities

1. Build a community based team
2. Learn about the importance of broadband
3. Assess what the community has
4. Design the future
5. Create an action plan
6. Implement and evaluate
7. Update plan and implement new projects
8. Tell your story to the community



# Adapting the Model in Africa

- Developing partnerships
  - Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences
  - Coder4Africa
  - African Universities
- Applications for Agriculture
- A platform for:
  - Healthcare
  - Government

# Summary

- Connected communities have
  - Access to Internet connections
  - Broad use of internet application by all sectors of the community
  - Significant amount of local content and services
- Connecting Communities – a model for improving connectivity
- Adapting the model for use in Africa through partnerships

# For More information

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[www.connectingcommunities.info](http://www.connectingcommunities.info) (Shuffstall, et. al.)

<http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/pdfs/ua384.pdf>

( Kerkeslager & Shuffstall)