

Intelsat and the **Global Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF)** join forces to fight Aids in Burundi and Burkina Faso



At a Glance

Players

- **Intelsat** - Global Communications Provider
- **BCom** - Satellite Solution Provider
- **Global Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF)** - International Organization

Mission

Providing quality Internet access to and support to local associations in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Burundi and Burkina Faso

Applications

- Distance Learning
- Tele-medicine
- Video Conferencing
- Voice Communications
- Data Exchanges

The Challenge

In the information society, equality means equal access to knowledge. This equality is a fundamental condition for a harmonious transition to a global society. In developing countries, access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) helps boost economic growth. ICTs contribute to resolving a number of problems related to underdevelopment, such as education, health, nutrition and good governance. Access to ICTs is one of the key objectives identified by the United Nations for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Remote Connectivity at the Service of Aids Sufferers

The Global Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) is using a DVB/SCPC service technology out of Intelsat gateway hub station in Fuchsstadt (Germany) to support associations in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Burundi and Burkina Faso. The new Internet connections create a link with clinics located far from urban centres. Bush doctors have access to high through-put IP 2-way connectivity with leading hospitals in Africa and worldwide and patients can be regularly monitored as of their first contact with the clinic doctor.

The Solution

To compensate for poor telecom infrastructure in remote locations, the Global Digital Solidarity Fund has financed VSAT systems in Burkina Faso – six remote communities in Ouagadougou, Zorgho, Ouahigouya, Banfora Bobo Dioulasso, Diebougou; and Burundi – four remote communities in Bujumbura, Gitega, Ngozi, Bururi.

These remote community associations working with HIV/AIDS benefit from a broadband satellite connection providing Internet access, video conferencing and voice communication between communities and health structures in the capital or in foreign countries. Using WiMAX-certified local wireless loop omni-directional antennas, connections have been rolled out to all partners involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS within a 30 km radius.

With the resultant broadband access, health care centres now have access to a medical database and can receive ongoing training provided by other centres.

Installed VSAT systems:

- 2.4m C-Band antennas
- 5 Watt BUC, LNB
- Comtech modems
- Local Area Network
- VSATs each allocated a 1 Mbps CIR forward with a 7 Mbps burst and 256 Kbps return

“Today, thanks to the support of the DSF, telecommunications are a reality for our association. Problematic medical cases can now be examined remotely by leading specialists based in the capital or even abroad. Data concerning actions carried out nationwide can be collected, enabling us to evaluate them on a day-to-day basis.”

Françoise Ndayishimiye
Ex. Secretary of National AIDS Council (CNLS) of Burundi



Solution at a Glance

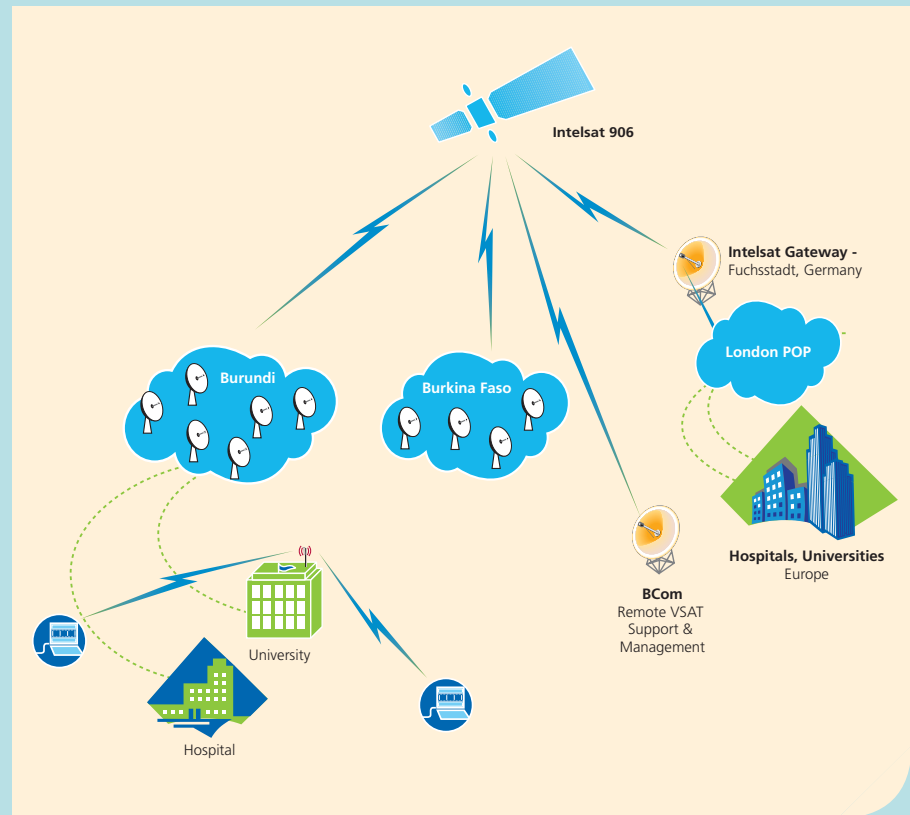
Local Partners (Beneficiaries)

Burkina Faso

- Ouagadougou, African Solidarity Association (ASA)
- Zorgho, African Solidarity Association (ASA)
- Ouahigouya, Association for Moral, Material and Intellectual Support for Children (AMMIE)
- Banfora, Hope and Life Association
- Bobo Dioulasso, Responsibility Hope Life and Solidarity Association (REVS+)
- Diebouougou, Responsibility Hope Life and Solidarity Association (REVS+)

Burundi

- Bujumbura, National Board for the Fight against AIDS (CNLS CHU Kamange)
- Gitega, National Association of Support for HIV-positive People and AIDS Sufferers (ANSS)
- Ngozi, Society of Women Against AIDS in Africa (SWAA)
- Bururi, University of Bururi



About Intelsat

Intelsat is the largest provider of fixed satellite services (FSS) worldwide and is the leading provider of these services to each of the media, network services and telecom and government customer sectors, enabling people and businesses everywhere constant access to information and entertainment. Intelsat offers customers a greater business potential by providing them access to unrivaled resources with ease of business and peace of mind. Our services are utilized by an extensive customer base, including some of the world's leading media and communications companies, multinational corporations, Internet service providers and government/military organizations. Real-time, constant communication with people anywhere in the world is closer, by far.

About the Global DSF

The Global Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF) is the only global organization entirely dedicated to reducing the digital divide. Its objective is to equip the developing world with the means to access the knowledge society. Through access to ICTs and valuable content, the DSF works at the community level to promote the development of marginalized populations. The DSF collaborates with local and national authorities, the private sector, international organizations and NGOs, as well as civil society. The DSF is recognized by the United Nations for its role in the fight against the digital divide. As a sustainable source for funding, the DSF has devised an innovative financing mechanism, the "1% digital solidarity principle". A voluntary contribution of 1% is deducted from the profit margin of suppliers in ICT-related commercial transactions, with those suppliers receiving the "digital solidarity" seal of approval.

About BCom

Since its operation start-up in 1999 BCom's expertise has evolved from field site survey and preparation to installation and support service related to VSAT systems in 2004, to installation and operation of larger and complex networks such as gateway hub stations with 7.6m antennas for networks operating on Intelsat. BCom specialized VSAT services out its Geneva hub station bring the operational benefits of outsourcing the WAN connectivity for the remote sites within an organization while retaining full management control of their IT. BCom areas of intervention have spanned the globe from Nicaragua and Cuba in Latin America through Africa and the Middle East to Indonesia, Vietnam and Nepal in the Far East. BCom has installed equipment in more than 45 countries on all 4 continents.

