#DoDevDif BarCamp REPORT
22nd January 2015, Canadian Embassy Berlin
r0g, Digital Unite and ICHR

Open Culture agency
r0g focuses on actual practice and projects embedded in communities. The key difference to existing development funds and organisations, which set the agenda from outside and impose it onto local conditions. Our network aims to Influence policy from the ground up, inform and create better policy outcomes, extend networks and support - bringing together arts, culture, open development, civil society and transparence.

KEY QUESTIONS
How can we make the development practice we are engaged in more useful, open and transparent?
How the development industry can act more effectively, and what 'open' in development context means.
Could #DoDevDif ever work in the existing work stream of development agencies?
Sometimes donor structures and policies do not really serve the ecosystems on the ground.
Can't just come as a donor and say this is what we would like if it doesn't fit the local culture and ecosystem.
How to foster the right environments? Sharing knowledge, skills / Funding, university, industry, community.

DESIGN AND ECOSYSTEM FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP
"When it's about knowledge sharing, not everybody has access to digital tools/infrastructures"

Knowledge being shared digitally, not always what is needed. Go there physically and train the trainers!
Facilitate ground up sharing of skills and knowledge to create sustainable technology & ecosystems.
Start up Ecosystem: Where does hype about tech ecosystems come from? //
Often no infrastructure in place to participate in digital knowledge sharing; i.e. digital tools not always useful
Monetisation of development / foster start-ups / include base of pyramid in policy and funding decisions.
Different concepts of ecosystems, role of IP's very different depending on where you are
Legitimacy for DFID and GIZ to promote entrepreneurship; How open can companies be to stay sustainable?
Bottom-up perspective: Policies of development agencies do not always serve the existing ecosystem
Grassroots driven innovation from multinational to local entrepreneurship; i.e. VW in Ghana
Example of ICE Egypt - events and coaching, while supporting existing community of entrepreneurs
Changing role of traditional Research & Development. Rights based culture - blueprint
Why is it important to talk about IPs? Often funders keep IP / "no regulation is better than bad regulation"
IDRC Research examines IP rules and their implications on innovation ecosystems.
Role of private sector? Ecosystem = interactions between different players; development agencies can provide the space; "sandpits to play"; making space, waiting to see what happens problem with experiments.
Question of accountability; result-based understanding different concepts of entrepreneurship ecosystems.

EVIDENCE OF THE IMPACT OF OPEN DATA
How can we measure the impact of open data, what does it look like?
How can you identify success? - create an app that people can use
Who is your data directed to? Questions that we think could be improved
Could there be open data, is there some areas where this is missing?
Eg: climate change, a lot of data is available, but it's somehow not sexy enough and the users are not engaging with it - so there is no climate change yet...

HOW WE USE ONLINE LEARNING TOOLS FOR EDUCATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE
It's worrying that so much of the internet is dominated by media produced by a certain demographic - ie male from western countries eg: 95% of wikipedia entries are written by men. Idea of westernisation and problems of engaging people in developing countries, when so much information on the internet is dominated by one section of society. elearning and online education to promote ideas of engagement, not just implementation.

CITIZEN SCIENCE & OPEN DATA COLLECTION / OPEN INFORMATION
Top down, weak community interaction = weak data
How to better visualise data, making better arguments vis a vis administrations?
Real local communities need to be built around data collection - reporting, 'owning' the data and sharing it
Educate about environment in which data is collected - kids/school can better learn the tools and use them.

Goals / indicators are not working on local level.
The United Nations use big indicators on how many millions are living in poverty but there is a huge difference between data that really works on the ground.
Alternative: doing local census!
Need to engage communities, look at communities to collect their own data. We have to find intermediaries.
Conflict between formal / informal activities:
This kind of census for instance are not really taken seriously within these organisations. So if we want to do development differently, how do we prove that this works?
How to make the process more visible?
Invisible data (eg Alejandra working on collecting environmental pollution data on soils and atmospheric pollution - how to make this visible. Using art to do this.) Using science and visualising, helping communities build an argument against governments, or companies and mining etc.
Physical data eg witnessing tool being used for agriculture, which used data from agricultural languages, taking photos, voice recording and location and making this into data collection.
Methodology more important than technology.
UNESCO point of interest collective, using the same system of collection as another one - which tweeted on floods / one very much working the other was not - it's all about the methodology and implementation.
Find and engage intermediaries / Map, observe with lowest tech possible, offline.
Examples: Rika open source, community-led platform to collect and disseminate information about flooding and critical water infrastructure in Jakarta http://petajakarta.org/banjir/en/
Sauti ya wakulima "The voice of the farmers": http://sautiyawakulima.net/bagamoyo/about_more.php

ISSUES OF VIOLENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
How technology can change behaviour and mitigate violence, especially towards women and children
How to identify imagery promoting violence / How to protect dignity / "Peace Text"
Violence in a war context - when technology comes into a community, we need to take into account the complex existing power structures. Two case studies that can illustrate positive change:
A program in Uganda used mobile phones to help women access information and messages to help women think differently about how they perceive their relationships, and that had a very positive impact.
After the 2004 tsunami, went into heath care project to help women recover - mobile phones being given to villages, did not take into account highly patriarchal system - therefore giving the first mobile phone in the village to a woman was actually putting her in danger in this system.

HOW OPEN TECHNOLOGY CAN EMPOWER WOMEN AND CHILDREN /
BENEFITS & RISKS OF TECHNOLOGY AND ABUSE
The benefits and challenges we face when dealing with social media and digital technology.
The internet is not going to go away, so the risk level is changing.
It can be a positive interactive force, where people gain personal empowerment in their own sense of self, in areas where they would not normally have it. Eg in Afghanistan where women are able to interact with men via social media, when they can't in person. However, children can be abused via social technology - eg young boys abusing members of the LGBT community in Singapore.
Pictures can be taken and tagged in ways that were not intended. Privacy/security of data and individuals.
Permission to post images of children, does metadata get removed to stop the child being located?

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES /
ROLES OF DONORS & ACCOUNTABILITY IN FOREIGN FUNDING

Should donor agencies provide funding or support to entrepreneurial projects within developing countries, or focus on policy making and communication with governments more than the business side?
Accountability of funding / entrepreneurship.
Open information - accountability and funding - whether the information should be shared, so it's visible and transparent, what's done with funding and what kind of projects would be supported.
Organisational change on the one hand and participation on the other.
Start with how development organisations – eg: GIZ - how their structures can make a change, and how they can implement digital strategies from within and use digital strategies for the outside projects.
The implementation of what kind of projects?

Current development approaches:
1. send engineers to drill wells
2. teach locals to drill wells
3. pay local companies to drill wells
4. fund local well drilling startup

Experience: some entrepreneurs had business ideas with business plans with ROI after 5 years, but didn't get Venture Capital, so instead they came up with ideas that were working for donor proposals to get funded.
Is that entrepreneurship and is it a good / bad thing? Half entrepreneurs? What do people want them to be?

Do development organisations need to support entrepreneurs?
Build something sustainable / Shape politics / Create jobs / Create infrastructures, micro-financing /
Support on other things than financial support
Help with recruiting / Where can you earn money right away???
Direction of the entrepreneurship
Startups and incubators – How to create a section in organisations that can juxtapose digital natives and older structures not quick on uptake for changes and implementation, make space for incubator & startup projects. Already for example with the GIZ, we try to figure out what this digital implementation would be - it doesn't have to be an agile startup environment where everything goes very quickly and build up a platform in two weeks. Initiative in Ghana where farmers can see the market prices, so they sell goods at a price that is actually regulated market price and not what people come in and say is the price today, then the farmers lose.
--> Development - more as in "IT" Development
How to do ICT4D: Experts that know these technologies, secure that it is sustainable in local context.
Same goes for entrepreneurship: not just to build, also what is needed. Have people there that create software GIZ works more and more on platforms; platforms maybe even more important than SMEs
i.e. transfer platforms from cashew initiative to a coffee project.

Internal strategies for donors: Become transparent (IATI); when is the data really helpful?
Digital Strategy also needs to address the question which data is made public / which data is actually needed Generation clash within organisations; "stiff" structure; needs to let the young generation jump in --> speed
Space for creativity, try and fail
Create a culture of change and trust in these big, highly structured organisations, learn by doing and failing. Institutions: Canadian Embassy, Polish govt, GIZ and actors doing development who face these difficulties. Avoid stagnation within an organisation – so people who work within these development organisations feel that they develop themselves as well!
Need a new role description or translator.
Different terminology - different buzzwords within groups, nobody understands each other, afraid to say that. Why do we need to change it, what is wrong with development? Why don't we just leave it the way it is? We have the giraffe as a metaphor, only sees the sky and tops of leaves, but doesn't work on the ground or have connection with that. Listen. Listening doesn't have to be through digital means, we just need to listen.

HOW CAN DIGITAL TOOLS PROVIDE A VOICE FOR CULTURE?
Structures of arts and culture within a development structure.
Inherent politicised implications for funding and development of art and culture in developing nations. For example, reinforcing stereotyping, and the idea of funding arts without the foresight of sustainability, so projects are often funded for a short period of time, when they end with no follow-up or ongoing support. Whether entrepreneurial and technological options for artists and culture workers exist to create their own practices and defeat these structures that are imposed on them!
If you look at it, not everything can be done online, everything cannot be limited to virtual collaboration, so is there another practical way to do it/ Doing that then, will we now be confronted by some sort of funding restrictions, how can we overcome these financial restrictions?
"Are we going to confine ourselves in the old way of doing development, which is very much within the frameworks of development agencies, funding proposals, projects? The topic of the translation is always coming up - agencies and developments love to support ecosystems and startups but they don't know how, and startups want the funding but don't know how to get it - we're going to build a network of people who will step by step get there. It's also about the way we work - not changing the world overnight - the way for example we want to actually transfigure knowledge, and transfer experience for example towards Africa - is there another way of doing it?"

Heba: "I've just come from a 5 months trip in west Africa by road - a spectacle kind of project - these very problematic structures of art and development, particularly in Africa. The structure that I fit in as an artist of 'an other' - on paper it's a project that organisers feel great about funding, but then there is no accountability. You get funding to do this project because it fits the politics of an organisation, but it somehow transforms the very thing you are trying to fight. So it became a spectacle, of African artist, travelling through Africa, taking photos of their reality, it became re-stereotypical. Especially coming from Egypt after the revolution."

"This is a very critical issue, you can generate an income if you are a traditional artist - but if you are a performing artist, you don't have an object to sell - but on the other hand I see a role, a very strong role on opening visually - with experimental art, bringing technology closer, you can present creative uses of technology and learning entrepreneurial skills, especially applied to your work."

TOOLKIT FOR CSO HACKTIVISM
I brought a very concrete project here, an Activist toolkit - to find together civil society activists who are not into this development issue, and bring them together. I hope to find some people to bring it to a more digital spin - the paper one form of the toolkits but also thinking of apps. Very specifically in art and activism and creative tools as agents for innovation and change."

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN MEDIA
Donor countries make commitments to open governments sharing open data.
Key role for Civil Society Organisations --> Put these issues on the agenda, that are not in the discourse.
Not sufficient to put data out there; we need to help people to be able to use the data. Focus on journalism.
Journalists --> Key role to make the information understandable for population.
How do we "donors" create capacities? There are not that many projects out yet, but we have to fill out the data and see who comes to this data and wants to work with us.
What is Civil Society? --- Might be different in different countries...
Data needs to be put out, there also needs to be a civil society to assess the data and be able to use it.
Challenges:
Big NGOs often act as governments, not very inviting to CSO.
Instead of acting as intermediates they are acting exclusive
On the ground: people often don't understand open information tools and interfaces
Is CSO apolitical? What are the criteria for selection for CSOs?
In developing context: CSOs often based on donor goals, not organic members of local civil society.
Journalists in Development countries are not able to write stories?
Counterexample from Senegal: Vibrant stories, but not reliable.
How can people assess reliable data?
Existing Solutions/Models
Ghana, Tanzania - generally not a lot of open data projects yet, eg aid transparency
Potential Solutions
Marketing for Open Data / Concrete Solutions (people need to know what the use of open data is)
Meeting of journalists with tech nerds. (team up and collaborate)
Example
Publishing data, want to help governments to be more open / Help people organising assess to information.
Hackathon in Netherlands for agriculture / Also in Tanzania "tons of Hackathons"

IMPACT OF CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECTS
Bottom up approach. Examples of projects in Africa which are going in this direction. Not one-way projects, but two-way streets. One group was kind of spontaneous: Tobias went to South African countries on a private basis, wanted to meet people, and to have an exchange on technology and communications issues. This project had no organisational framework, was not operated by an NGO or anything, they just went there. We agreed that can be one element, or one format - of being on an eye to eye level, not seeing ourselves as "developing" someone else. So many people with different skills and competencies, eg people in Germany have some time to travel and share their knowledge practically, but they are not organised to do it or encouraged to do it. People need to physically travel and train the trainers on the ground, then development happens. The attitude can work - we need all kinds of different formats of civil society being involved in developments. Another project introduced by an NGo was downscaled to a very eye to eye level.

LIMITS AND CHALLENGES OF OPEN ICT/ INNOVATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Different kinds of ICT for development:
First the classical idea of an entrepreneur having an idea, building up a company, employing people, helping to trickle down some wealth into a community, and building up a company in these countries. The classical entrepreneurial problems, about regulatory frameworks, restraints in capital, human capital and so on. "You're talking again about capacities, and capabilities and the technologies that needs to be provided - a lot of crowd sourcing is done by mobile phone but you need a back end / server, the same with mobile money transfer. You need a secure back end to supply that capability. ICT4D relies on a robust education system in a country that is developing capabilities for people who want to use that information."

Ideas using ICT for people: Developing projects with idea of inclusiveness, to deliver the project to local people, negotiating the procedures to implement. The second approach is more difficult, we see that a lot of projects fail because they're not really user driven development, not looking at the people and what are their needs. Role of intermediaries to help design projects and products that are user adequate.

Doing development differently – find ways around the bureaucratic and corrupt system - you can develop a system to send text messages to farmers, to tell them what the real prices of their products are on a given day. eg Mali is the 2nd biggest cotton provider in Africa, but the price of cotton is so manipulated by the French governmentt that farmers don't really know the value - it keeps changing. You can go from one village to another, 20-30km and the price per kg is not the same - it's not right. But if you can send out a text message to reach a lot of people in an area, then everybody knows what the price of cotton is in a specific time - also using ICT to actually do the development differently, so it empowers people in a sustainable business model.

"Your examples suggest that there is a role for an intermediary - a person or local organisation, who needs to be the one where you can partner development donor funds - you can partner with an intermediary who is doing that local research, of co/knowledge and co/design. Maybe what we are looking for are intermediaries who are collectors of knowledge, not imposers of knowledge. Like ifarm in West Africa, I know also ishepherd with nomadic sheep farmers in Mali - lots of interventions we've learned lessons from, but what is it we can do to consolidate that knowledge and work with partners to design for a better future?" Heloise

"It is important to empower people, in the long run most of the projects I worked on or follow, go for a few years with funding, then fail or are forgotten. The ones that keep going are those that have been not assimilated by people, but are created by people locally. That's why I think it's really important to empower the people to create what they need. That's what they were doing at the beginning, brought technologies and ideas, but then let the people put together the project that they wanted. It needs to come from those people, to last in the long term - not to always have an organisation or intermediary in the middle." Jules Clement, http://landportal.info/book/countries

Development is education: Ghana is a country that invested massively into teaching young engineers in field of IT, ICT - you see many Ghanian projects coming into these countries.
Badia: Coming back to ICT4D, can you not improve education level in those countries to be able to use ICT?
Heloise: "ICT4D is an entry point into some institution. Eg Youssou N'Dour's school he benefited through a university in Montreal, developed a smart classroom with electronics and so on - took these poor fisherfolk kids and in 5 years tremendously improved capabilities with teachers and students."
Badia: "In Kenya or Uganda they developed an app that can actually be used to teach nomad children on the move - that is the financial point, being able to afford a handset to be able to use the app. It was so successful there, they are using the same app in England for educational purposes. So it can go both ways, I believe."
Heloise: "Even if you have that app, how do you change that child's motivation, or community to realise they can live outside of poverty in ten years time? How do you change the surroundings for a child at school to say I'm going to do something to help my community to come out of poverty?"
Badia: "That's done through the educational process that is part of the app - not only about reading or writing, but motivating the child to open up their mind to be aware of certain things in their surroundings. Environmental issues - it is a way of developing that education. I think ICT has the potential to actually revolutionise the way people learn – or play - and are made aware of their environment."

"Social media and digital means helping grassroots participatory process, and organisational change to a digital agenda"