From the Margins:
Visual Tales of Last-Mile Connectivity













CIRC Community Information Resource Centre — Digital Access, Information & Empowerment for All

Wireless for Communities

Soochnapreneur — Information, Entitlements & Empowerment

Wireless for Communities

Wireless for Communities (W4C), a flagship initiative by Digital Empowerment Foundation and Internet Society, launched in 2010, aims to provide affordable internet access in remote and rural areas of India where traditional ISPs are absent. By using line-of-sight, low-cost Wi-Fi equipment operating on unlicensed spectrum bands, W4C builds community-owned networks that promote digital inclusion. The programme not only brings connectivity to underserved locations but also fosters local digital content and services, helping bridge the rural-urban digital divide. Over the years, W4C has established over 300 access points across 35 districts in 13 states. While the expansion of 4G has reduced the demand for these networks, over 150 rural clusters still rely on them for last-mile connectivity, continuing to empower communities with access to information and digital services.

Digital Empowerment Foundation

Founded in 2002, Digital Empowerment Foundation has been working to empower marginalised and unconnected communities living at the edge of information by enabling them with digital capacity, access and rights across the pillars of education and entertainment, livelihood and finance, health and agriculture, culture and heritage, with a special focus on digital rights for women and adolescents. With a 10000-strong cadre of digital foot soldiers across India, DEF has interventions in 2,000 locations in 250 districts across 28 states in India.

Scan to access DEF website

Scan to access W4C website

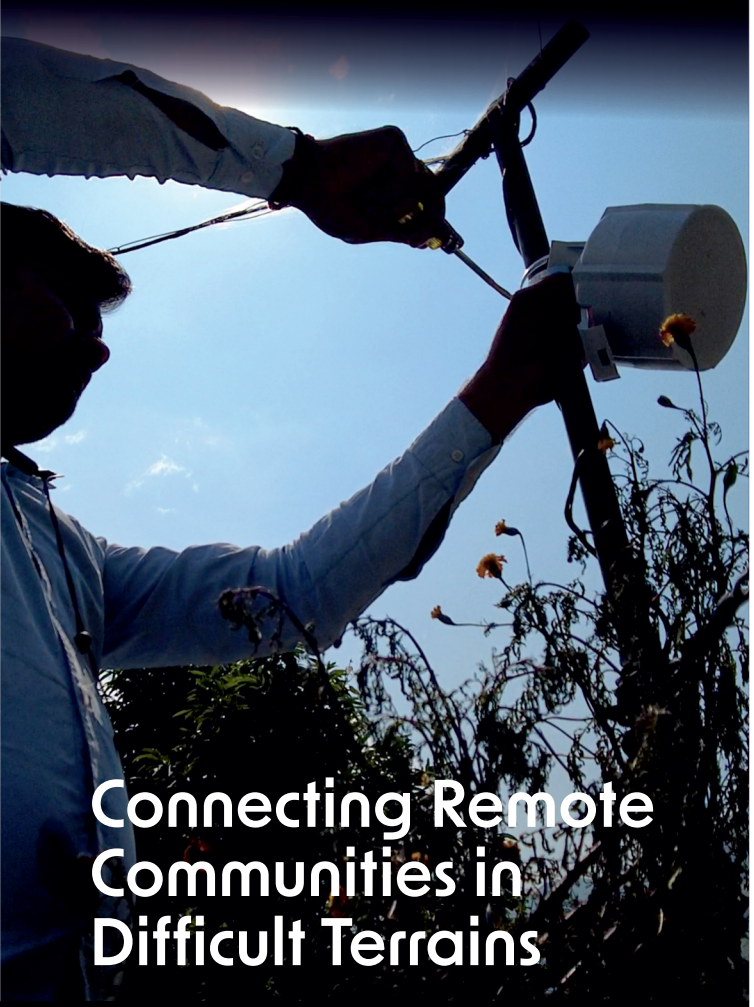
info@defindia.org

defindia.org

Internet Society Foundation

Connecting Disaster Prone Areas with Digital Empowerment





Connecting Remote Communities in Difficult Terrains

Provide internet, wireless connectivity, and access to information in remote or hard-to-reach areas. Use reliable communication tools to send messages and updates during disasters to ensure communities stay informed and connected.

Implementing a project to establish resilient internet infrastructure in 10 remote villages of Uttarakhand, a region increasingly prone to natural disasters such as floods and landslides.
The project aims to ensure uninterrupted internet access using advanced satellite-based technologies or PM Wani, enabling quick communication and information dissemination during emergencies. This initiative focuses on equipping communities with reliable digital connectivity, promoting resilience, and facilitating disaster response in geographically vulnerable areas.

ACTIVITIES

Digital Education

Digital Services

Disaster Preparedness

Access to Digital Infrastructure

Access to Government Entitlements

Access to Health Information

Access to Livelihood Information

Access to Financial Services

Wi-Fi Hotspot

Internet Radio Broadcast



IMPACT

10 Panchayats will be connected with **Internet** and **Community Hotspots**

10 Information and Facilitation Centre

Access to timely disaster related information to **10 communities** from disaster prone areas

10 villages will be connected via a **mesh network**, enabling them to function as self-forming units

Low-cost **satellite internet** ensures long-term affordability

4,000 Youth will be provided with Digital Education

5,000 Community members will be connected with government scheme

10,000 Digital Services will be provided to the community in one year

Pithoragarh Centres Location Map



Dar
Chhalmachhilason
Siniyakhola
Rupkhet (Galati)
Bajelni (Kalika)
Nigalpani
Dharchula
Lunthura
Khumati
Jarajibali