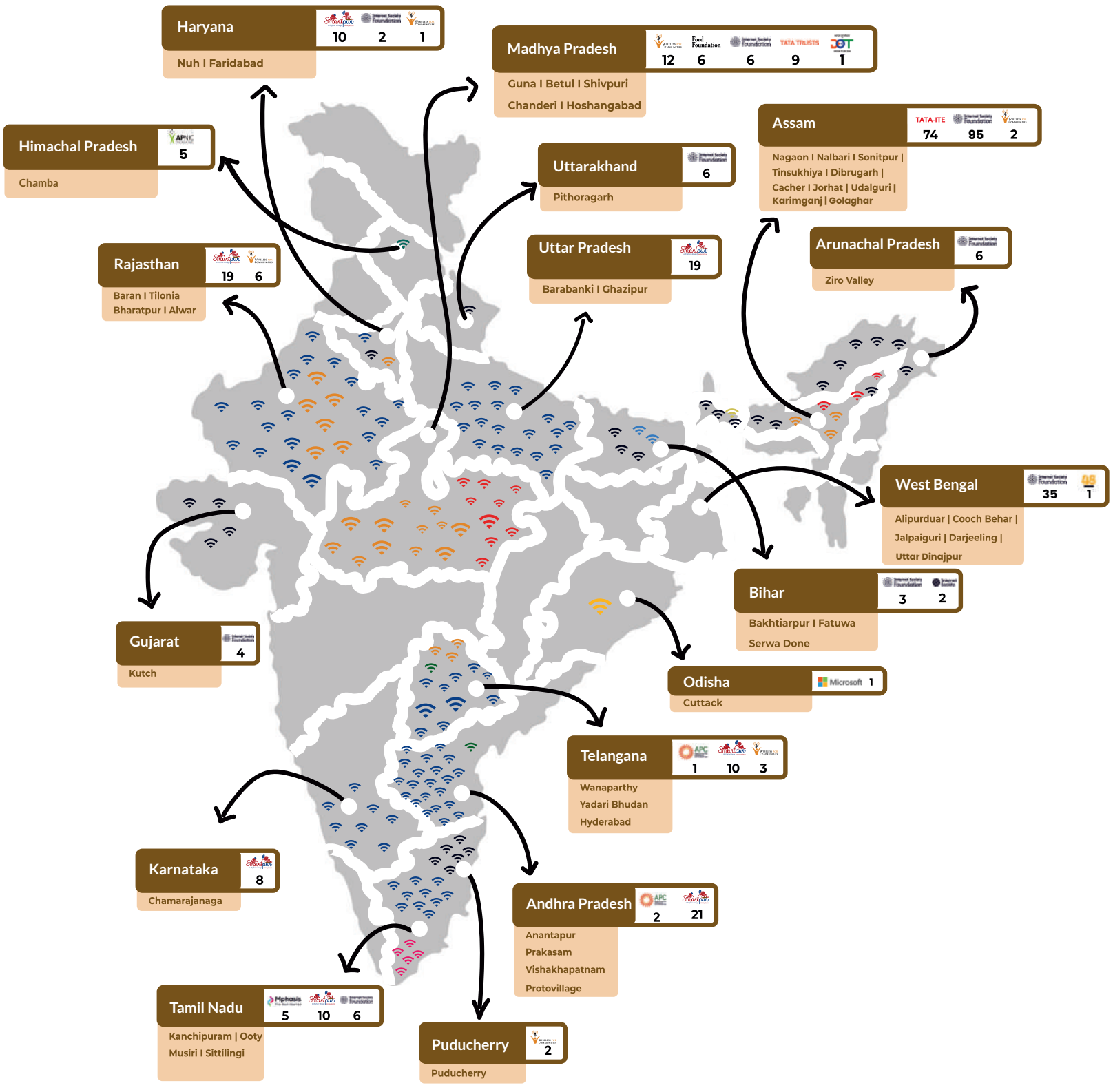
Geo-mapping of more than 392 Community Networks across India

Enabled by Digital Empowerment Foundation

Wireless for Communities

defindia.org

Last mile connectivity for the unconnected communities in India has been a serious challenge. In order to facilitate last mile connectivity, Digital Empowerment Foundation, in 2010 partnered with Internet Society and gradually got together with APC, APNIC, GDIP, Government of India, several community radios and many grassroots organisations and used the principles of community networks and community WiFi to enable WiFi @ Community level. Over a period of two decades, under the program wireless for communities, DEF spread over 392 locations accross India where community network engineers have been trained, women wireless engineers have been prepared, and as a result millions of marginalised community members have been provided meaningful and hyper local WiFi connectivity with purpose & impact.



- 392 Community Networks are being established across the country
- More than 500 women wireless engineers have been trained
- 46 districts in 15 states including 1 UT have been impacted
- 150+ villages and 50,000 households have been connected to the internet, access to education and information, and rights through our access points
- 7 Community Network Exchange (CNX) have been conducted to enable the grassroots connectivity movement across the globe
- Since 2010, DEF; with its partners such as APC, ISOC, APNIC, GDIP, ISOC Foundation among others, has learnt and implemented alternative last mile network connectivity through mesh, wireless and frugal technologies
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) used DEF's wireless mesh and community network as a viable alternative for mass scale deployment of Wi-Fi technology to create village level internet hotspots.
- DEF was a singular implementation partner in 3 locations to understand the impact of National Optic Fibre Network (NOFN) at the grassroots level
- DEF, in partnership with NASSCOM Foundation and Intel, co-conceived, co-wrote and co-implemented the National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM), which was adopted by the IT ministry with the mission to digitally empower 60 million citizens

97	CN supported through Smartpur (Nokia)	09	CN supported through Tata Trusts	6	CN supported through Ford Foundation
113	CN supported through ISOC	74	CN supported through Tata-ITE	2	CN supported through Internet Society
26	CN supported through W4C	01	CN supported through Microsoft	01	CN supported through DOT India Telecom
02	CN supported through APC	5	CN supported through Mphasis		
01	CN supported through 48 Percent	5	CN supported through APNIC Foundation		

Total - 392