



Building
Communities
For

**RIGHTS
TO
ACCESS**

**ACCESS
TO
RIGHTS**



Every Rights is Behind
Digital Access 📶





Context

Community Network Xchange (CNX) was started in 2017 to provide information and know-how of community networks. Over the last seven editions, CNX has addressed various factors related to community networks, including understanding social and economic sustainability, the Internet of the people, promoting public Wi-Fi access, meaningful access, community networks for public goods, and connecting indigenous and mountain communities in its latest edition. Over the years, practitioners from various countries such as Bangladesh, South Africa, Argentina, Malaysia, Indonesia, Haiti, Kenya, Nepal, Malawi, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan have attended CNX to share their expertise.

This edition of CNX, **“Building Communities for Rights to Access and Access to Right”** aims to address network deployment challenges in rural and remote regions and the subsequent challenge of exclusion from entitlements. CNX aims to bring community-led and community-centred access solutions to the forefront so that different stakeholders, including philanthropic organisations, government, policymakers, and grassroots organisations, have a perspective on different models and their utility.

Objectives for the 8th Community Network Xchange

- To understand how community networks are enabling access to different citizen rights in remote and unconnected regions
- To understand how community networks are addressing diverse social and economic issues in the operating locations
- To deliberate the challenges faced by community-led connectivity initiatives in community building
- To highlight the importance of gender inclusivity in community networks by promoting meaningful access and connectivity, particularly for women in remote and underserved areas. This year’s edition will continue to emphasise gender representation, showcasing initiatives that empower women through community networks



Methodology

In depth hybrid discussions with the CN initiatives to explore their innovative models, transformative impacts and seamless operations. These sessions will showcase compelling video case studies, leading to a hybrid event on **15th and 16th November 2024**. These conversations will facilitate dialogues among experts, policymakers, technicians, and community members about the functioning of community networks. CNX will be a captivating two-day event featuring close to ten Community Networks from Asia-Pacific regions through case studies, with panel discussions organised around the regional, ethical, and technical aspects of each case.

The following sub-topics will be explored during the 8th Community Network Xchange

Democracy in Community Networks

- Address decision-making, access to information, and democratic functioning within community networks.
- Explore how community networks facilitate communication, consensus building, and discussions on diverse topics.
- Examine challenges and strategies in democratic decision-making.

Freedom of Expression and Community Networks

- Address the role of community networks in promoting freedom of expression and combating misinformation.
- Document how these networks provide platforms for marginalised communities, including women and queer folks, to express themselves.
- Discuss the use of community networks for discussions and dissent.



Resilience and Community Networks

- Explore how community networks enhance community resilience, especially during emergencies like natural disasters or internet shutdowns.
- Discuss community building and infrastructural resilience

Diversity and Community Networks

- Examine how community networks promote cultural and linguistic diversity and adapt to local contexts.
- Understand the content creation process based on community needs.
- Discuss the role of low-cost technologies in promoting diversity.

Data and Community Networks

- Analyse the data practices of community networks, including data generation, collection and protection measure.

Building Communities for Rights to Access and Access to Rights

- The sessions discussed above will culminate into a broader discussion on the 'right to access and access to rights' in the context of larger right-based movements and the enabling role the Community Networks can play.

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Prospective Partners for 8th CNX



The **8th Community Network Xchange** aims to explore the potential of community networks in **Building Communities for Rights to Access and Access to Rights** and addressing current challenges. By fostering discussions among diverse stakeholders, this edition will contribute to the sustainable, democratic and inclusive community networks.

