

The Open Training Platform

<http://www.opentrainingplatform.com>

*Information Society Division
UNESCO*



Rationale

Most of the learning resources produced by development stakeholders at large are free and often open.

A collaborative sharing space was needed for the consolidation of these training materials, a peer-review process and a mix of dissemination options tailored to the reality of trainers and learners, especially from developed countries.

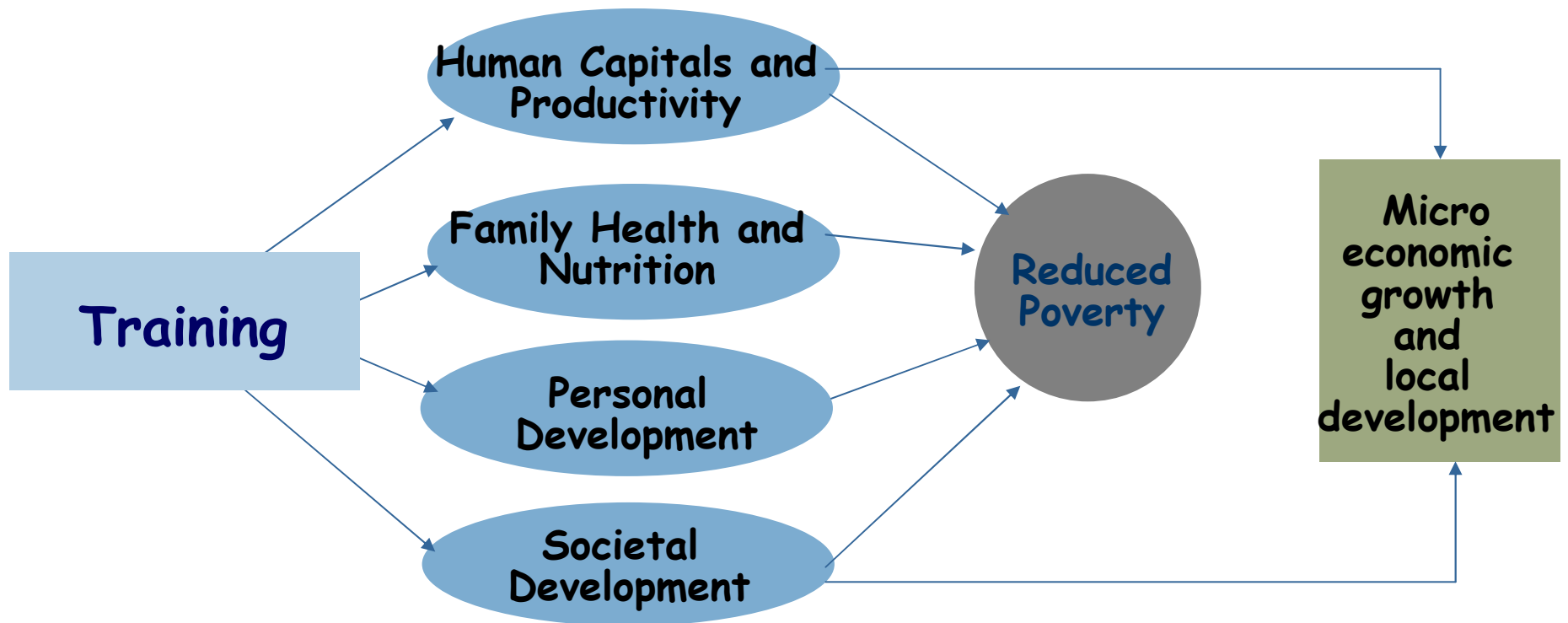


Several open education content sharing efforts exist for higher education, K-12, but nothing in non formal education, which is so strategic for development.

In addition, there are specific needs in developing countries, which increasingly justify support to non formal lifelong learning.



Non formal education impact on local development





The OTP

The Open Training Platform was therefore launched for the development stakeholders worldwide to join forces and better serve local and specialized communities by providing access and unlock opportunities to learn to improve living conditions.



Development of Alphabet
3500 BC - 2500 BC

Paper Invention
105 BC

Wooden printing press
300

Newspaper in Europe
1450

Printing press
1455

Camera obscura
1500

Telegraph line
1843

Telephone
1876

Radio
1895

Television
1927

Telephone
1978

Xerox machine
1958

Cellular phone
1979

ARPANET
1969

Computer modem
1979

IBM PC
1981

WWW
1994

What resources?

The OTP members share training materials:

Any organized, educational content for knowledge transmission outside the framework of the formal education system to provide selected types of learning by which every person can acquire and accumulate knowledge, skills, attitudes and insights, using formal programmes of instructional methods and techniques having an electronic format:

- Self training courses including elearning courses
- Courses for face to face training
- Guidelines for trainers



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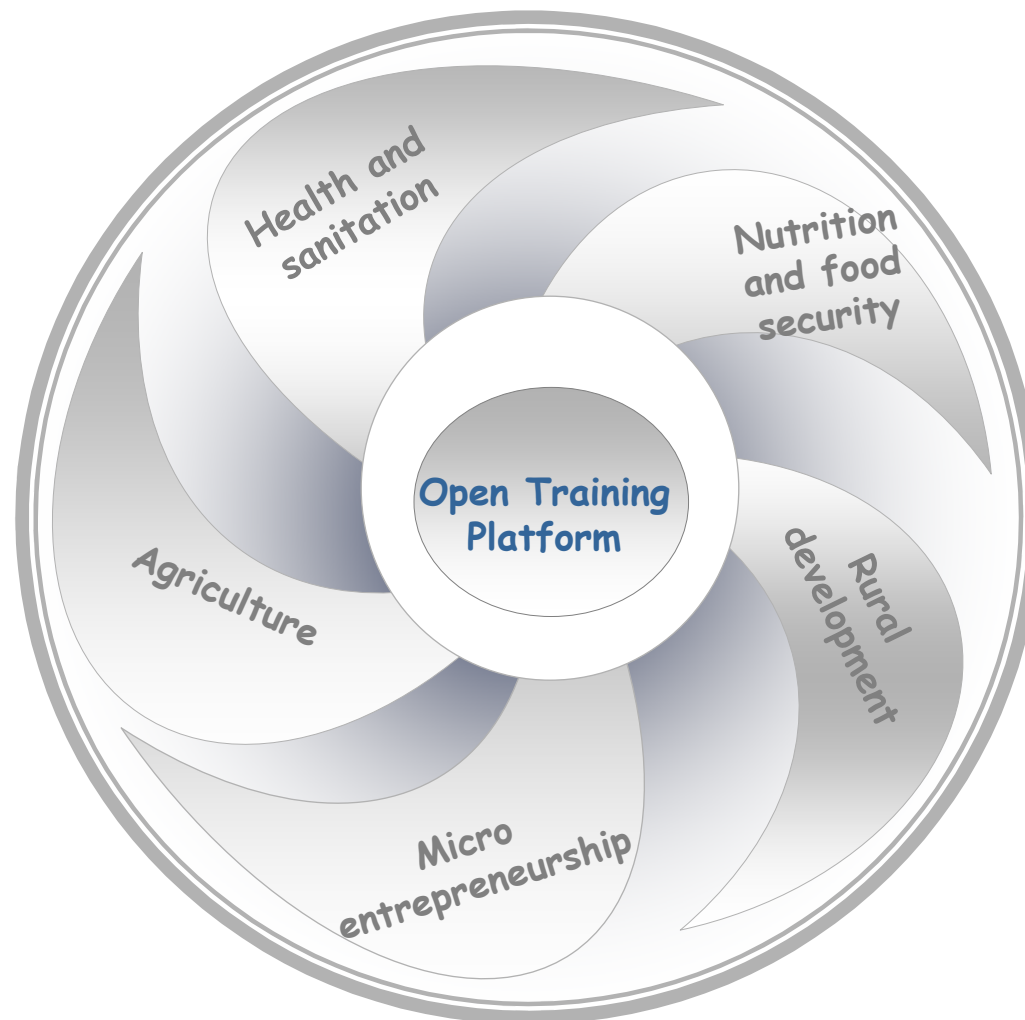
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In all key development domains





21 key domains covered with 2300 shared training courses

- Adult Literacy □ Agriculture □ Community development □ Computer science and information management □ Culture □ Development aid □ Education and pedagogy □ Employment □ Engineering □ Entrepreneurship, economy and sustainable development
- Environment □ gender issues □ Government policy □ Health and sanitation □ Knowledge of every day life □ Languages □ Legal issues □ Management □ Media and communication □ Social problems □ HIV-AIDS



Free content, advocating open

- **Free:** All the training resources on the OTP are free
- **Open:** the OTP heavily encourage each training submitter to opt for an open solution allowing localization of the **resources**. When materials are not open (such as UN ones) the copyright holder is available to be contacted directly and asked for use / localisation permission
- Finally, through the **Training-on-demand**, OTP team replies to any precise needs expressed for training which are not on the OTP.



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Materials from 630 development stakeholders

Development stakeholders committed to capacity building for development already embarked on the Open Training Platform:

- UN agencies (UNESCO, UNDP, UNIDO, ILO, UNEP, FAO, UNITAR, WFP, UNCTAD, UNAIDS, WHO and ITU)
- Development agencies
- NGOs, foundations and associations worldwide.



To better serve local communities

Local communities: human groups sharing a limited territory and involved in related aspects of livelihoods — such as managing natural resources, producing knowledge and culture, and developing productive technologies and practices, having direct mutual influences in their daily life.

The OTP is in contact with a vast and ever increasing number of local community support initiatives proposing learning facilities such as Knowledge Centres, CLCs, CMCs, IT kiosks, telecentres, e-villages, education or cultural centers, knowledge centres, etc. (contact inventory constantly updated)



and specialized groups for development

Specialized communities: (or communities of interest) are groups of individuals having common interests and common needs in a specialized domain (professional or intellectual) whose members engage in joint activities and discussions.

A significant part of the OTP materials are relevant for specialists such as trainers, educators, decision makers & policy makers, entrepreneurs, farmers, scientists, media people, information specialists, cultural actors (artists, handicrafts), health specialists, environment specialists, development & social worker, civil servants, etc.



The OTP: a flexible model

The key characteristic of the OTP are:

- **its flexibility:**
 - Readyness to partner with any new initiative sharing the same strategic objective
- **its constant evolution:**
 - taking the most of new tools (web 2.0 tools, harvesting systems ADI, etc.)
 - sticking to target group needs
 - very regular awareness raising campaigns and networks mobilization
 - working out sustainability solution through business planning and model.



OTP in figures

- 9 UN agencies officially join as UN Members like ITU, UNEP, UNITAR, UNU, FAO, WHO, ILO, UNV and UNESCO
- 1580 members registered
- over 2200 training shared
- over 71 000 visitors since its launching in March 2007 from 203 countries/territories
- Support from the Swedish agency SPIDER and IDRC



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They said on the OTP

"The Web site looks great and we are pleased to welcome your initiative as a new partner to strengthen open access to educational resources."

Development Gateway

"Fabulous and informative!"

World Food Programme

"A wonderful tool, clear, easy to use, nice and fancy"

UNESCO Venice Office

"Congratulations! Great work"

Media Lab, University of Helsinki

"This new initiative would open new vistas to millions all over the world"

UNHCR



The OTP has major challenges ahead:

- Keep on making it known among local and specialized communities
- New French version in June 2008
- The OTP evaluation results in May 2008
- Offer customization solutions for specialized networks/communities
- Always innovate in terms of functions...

