Disconnected Internet Access for Youth in Tijuana

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This material is based in part upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 0326582.
Context and Fieldwork

- ICT4D Class Project / TIER Work
- Goal: Understand how computers are used by underprivileged youth in Tijuana
- Local Partner: Spectrum Ministries
- Field Work:
  - April 2005 – initial site visits (4 locations) and needs assessment
  - August 2005 – continued needs assessment, pilot deployment, partner development
- Findings:
  - Certification of proficiency in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
  - Homework, primarily in Internet Cafés or at home
  - Computer Literacy
  - Collaboration with other schools

A Doctor offers medical assistance from her van during the Spectrum Bath Program.
Wikipedia Appliance at El Pozo

El Pozo – “The Well”
- 11 girls, 22 boys
- 8-17 years old
- Children of drug-addict prostitutes

Local computer “expert”
- Teaching girls computer skills
- Wants to learn Linux

Design Goals:
- Hide the complexity
- Fill need for Spanish research resources

Complications
- Non-functional network cards in PCs
- Performance Issues
Conclusions and Moving Forward

- Learn to improvise
  - Cultural flexibility: expect chaos
  - Time scales are different!
- Need for training curriculum: enabling volunteers and partners
  - Teacher computer training
  - Curriculum for students
- Next Step: DTN Appliance
- Potential Partner: Internet Café in Porvenir