



International Training – Challenges and Thoughts from the Field

PANEL DISCUSSION

By Kathy Mason, Steve Litavec, David Plotner and Brett Anderson

International Field Directors and Technology Conference, May 2015

Country Experience

Argentina

Bangladesh

Brazil

China

Costa Rica

DRC

Egypt

Ghana

Guatemala

India

Indonesia

Kazakhstan

Kenya

Malawi

Mexico

Nigeria

Panama

Philippines

Qatar

Tanzania

Thailand

Turkey

Uganda

Uruguay

Vietnam

Zambia

NIGERIA



Brief Background

- Education surveys in Nigeria
- Many obstacles to doing household surveys there – lack of services, instability, remote areas are difficult to travel to, language barriers

Challenges are many!

- Cultural and religious differences



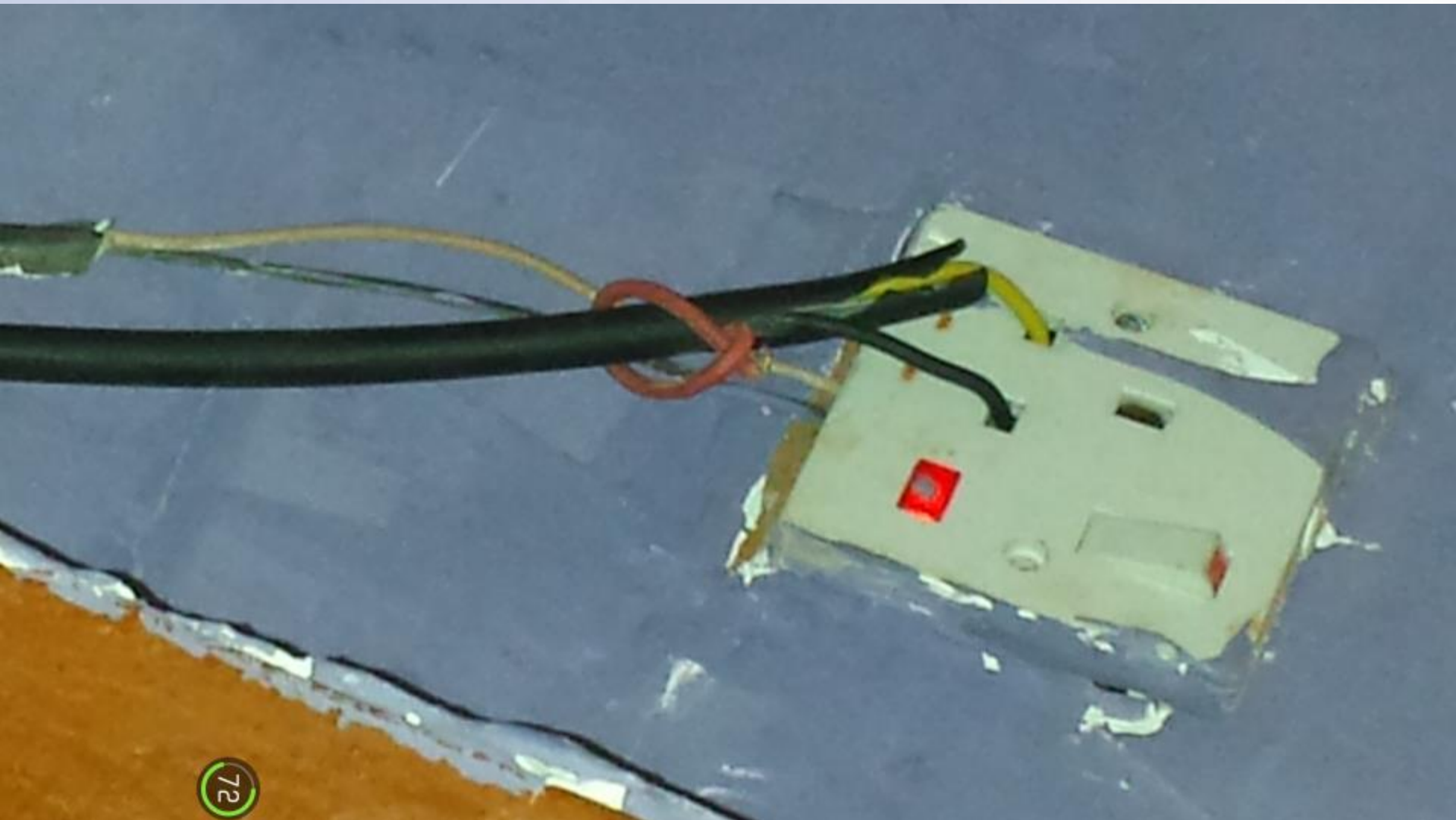


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Other Challenges

- Electricity/telecommunications – frequent power loss and surges, spotty wi-fi and cell phone coverage all lead to data transmission issues
- Translations – “translating on the fly” vs. reading verbatim
- Security and personal safety





More challenges

- Privacy –personal boundaries, interviews are frequently a family affair
- Facilities – insufficient space, poor lighting, temperature extremes
- Managing subcontractor staff – wide range of skills, language barriers









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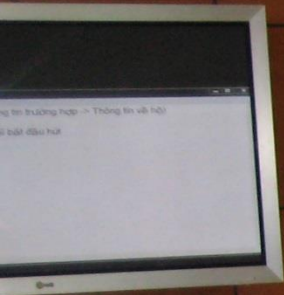






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The rewards are also many.....

- Training internationally can be challenging but extremely rewarding
- Key is to be flexible and prepared for anything to happen!
- Be open to a new understanding of the world.

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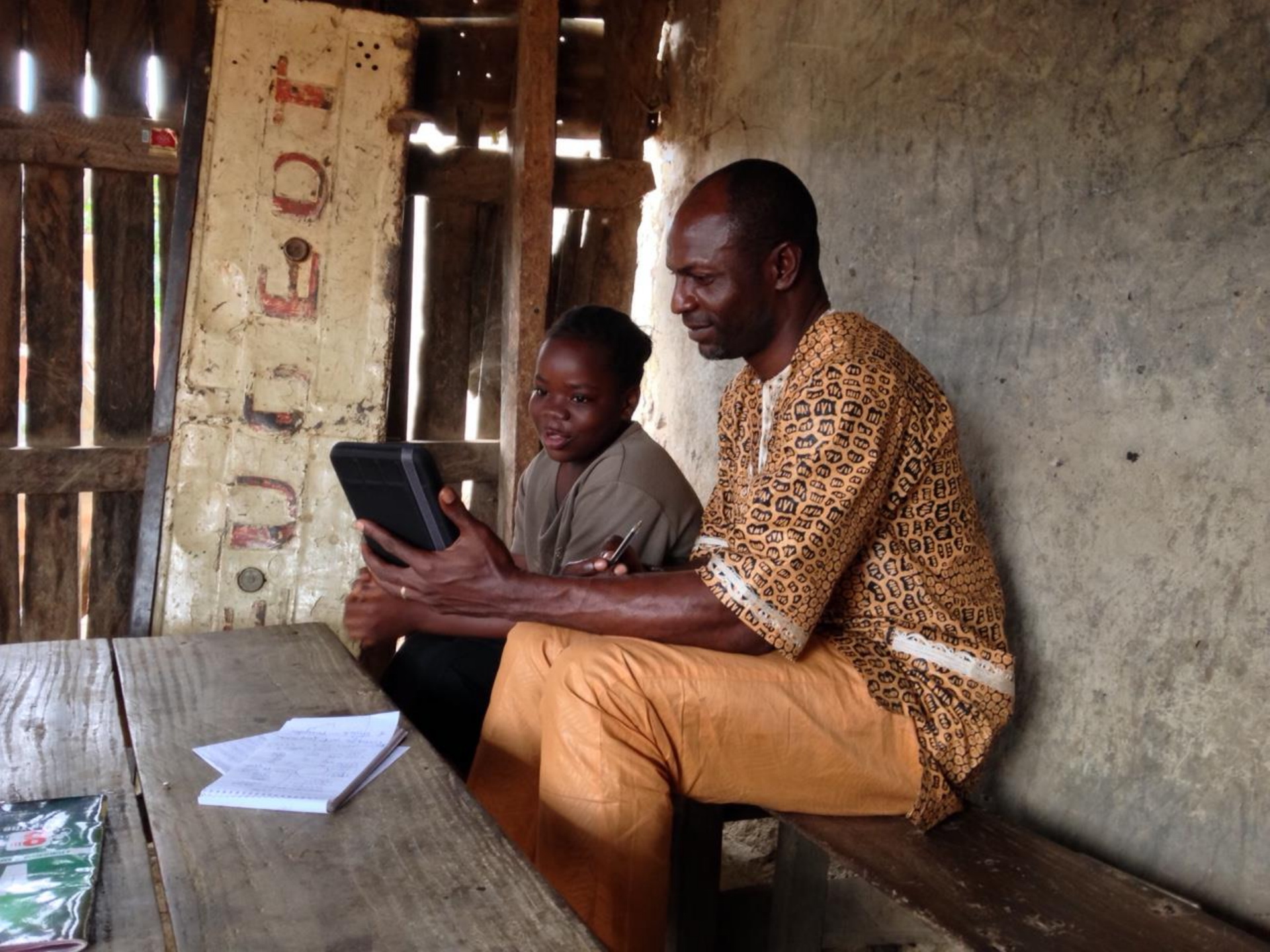
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