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| **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **24th Meeting, Geneva, 3-5 April 2019** | C:\Users\comas\AppData\Local\Temp\Rar$DRa0.735\jpg\ITU official logo_blue_RGB.jpg |
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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | |
| ITU-D PROJECTS | |
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| **Summary:**  As stipulated by the ITU Constitution, a key function of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector is to fulfil the purposes of the Union's dual responsibility, as a United Nations specialized agency and as an executing agency, by developing and implementing projects to facilitate and enhance telecommunications development technology by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities.  This document presents an overview of the outcomes related to ITU project implementation in six regions of ITU’s Telecommunication Development Sector, namely Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Europe, as well as global.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  WTDC Resolutions 17 and 52 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017)  PP Resolution 157 (Rev. Dubai, 2018) | |

## Introduction

Considering WTDC-17 Resolutions 17 and 52 and PP-18 Resolution 157 in relation to strengthening the executing agency role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, to strengthen the project execution function in the ITU, and to implement regionally approved Initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels, BDT has undertaken a significant number of actions and activities to develop and implement projects in the Development Sector.

ITU projects are making a difference in the lives of people and offer sustainable and innovative solutions around the world to achieve development through ICTs. ITU offers tailor-made projects for multi-stakeholder needs, with recognized long-standing technical expertise in the ICT field and comprehensive project management experience.

BDT has continued to improve and take the necessary steps to strengthen its project execution role, by developing and refining the necessary tools, methodologies, guidelines, templates, standards, database and training related to projects and project management.

The ongoing application of a results-based management approach, as well as project management guidelines, has also resulted in improved management, better implementation, enhanced auditing and monitoring, better accountability and the achievement of the planned results and objectives of projects.

BDT has made continuous efforts to increase the sharing of information, experiences and lessons learned of implemented projects, especially by enhancing the ITU projects website, as well as developing case studies and project post implementation assessment reports and videos.

## Overall project implementation

Since 2007, BDT has implemented a total of 242 small, medium and large projects at national, regional, interregional and global levels. A total number of 150 developing and least developed countries have benefited from the above-mentioned implemented projects.

## Project portfolio

## As of 31 December 2018, the ITU project portfolio has 63 ongoing projects, valued at CHF 68,413,879 (Annex 1). The current balance held in ongoing projects is CHF 21,398,305 [[1]](#footnote-1). 20 new projects valued around CHF 10.8 million were developed and signed in 2018 (more information in INF/3).

Most projects are developed for Member States, co-financed by ITU and external partners.

1. **Ongoing projects by region**

The following is a distribution of the 63 ongoing projects as of 31 December 2018, based on regional distribution. The Asia-Pacific region has eleven projects, Africa also has eleven, the Americas has eight projects, nine projects in the Arab region, while CIS region has one project and Europe also has one project. In addition to the regional projects, there are 22 global projects.

## Ongoing projects by areas of action

The following is a distribution of the 63 ongoing projects as of 31 December 2018, based on the BDT thematic. Most projects fall into the ICT Applications, Technology and Network Development; Spectrum Management and Broadcasting and Capacity Building [[2]](#footnote-2) thematic areas.

## Projects under development to be signed

Several projects have been under development and are expected to be finalized in the first half of 2019, valued at around CHF 8,5 million, such as:

1. Provide Brazil with a regulatory environment conducive to digital transformation – Americas region;
2. National Implementation of the Financial Inclusion Global Initiative in Mexico – Americas region;
3. Advise and support the Ministry of Communications and Transportation in the development of general activities for the best use of ICT for Digital Transformation in Colombia – Americas region;
4. Updating of regulatory framework in the field of telecommunications in the Republic of Panama – Americas region;
5. Establishment of an African Digital Transformation Center (ATDC) in South Africa – Africa region;
6. Strengthening the capacity of the judiciary in Burkina Faso regarding the interpretation and application of ICT legislation in Burkina Faso – Africa Region;
7. National Implementation of the Financial Inclusion Global Initiative in Egypt – Arab Region
8. ICT applications to enhance traceability in the food value chain – Asia-Pacific region.

## Funding sources for projects

ITU Projects are funded mostly through extra-budgetary resources. Projects have four types of funding sources: Funds in Trust (FIT), ICT Development Fund (ICTDF), Voluntary contributions and ITU Regular Budget. Most projects have at least two funding sources.

Based on the ongoing budget for the implementation of 63 projects as of 31 December 2018, 88% corresponds to Funds in Trust, 9% to the ICTDF and 3% to the BDT Operational Plan. Based on the 20 new projects signed in 2018, 78% corresponds to Funds in Trust, 10% to the ICTDF and 12% to the BDT Operational Plan

ICTDF funds are granted as seed money for the implementation of projects related to BDT areas of action in developing and least developed countries. Projects are chosen, based on their potential long-term sustainable impact and their facilitation of multi-national cooperation and partnership.

For the funding of projects to implement the WTDC-17 Regional Initiatives, ITU Council-18 decided to allocate CHF 2 million for the period of 2018-2019 from the 2017 Operational Plan and include CHF 3 million for 2020-2021 in the Financial Plan 2020-2023. These funds were allocated to act as seed funds used to attract funds from partners. As an initial step towards the implementation of the Regional Initiatives, ten (10) new projects from all regions were under development by the end of 2018 for implementation from 2019.

1. **Examples of efforts being made, related to the strengthening of the project execution function**

In addition to the many efforts already being made by BDT to continue to strengthen its project execution role, such as developing and refining of the necessary tools, methodologies, guidelines, templates, standards, database related to projects and project management, below are several examples of new actions being taken:

* **Project post implementation assessments and missions:** BDT has conducted post implementation assessments for several implemented ITU projects. These assessments aim to review the achievements of the set key performance indicators, efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of the projects, as well as the impact of achieved results, centred on results-based management principles. The outcome of each review is based on an objective analysis of the results achieved, as well as the drawing of lessons learned that may help improve the design and implementation of future ITU projects. The results are captured in Assessment Reports which are also published on [BDT Projects website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects/Pages/Implementation-Reviews.aspx).
* **Project videos:** Project videos are instrumental in the promotion of ITU projects. Relevant footage and interviews with the different stakeholders compiled during the post implementation assessement missions, are used to produce short videos which showcase the project relevance, results and achievements. Such videos are also used to share experiences among the ITU Membership. The project videos are available on [BDT Projects website](file:///C:\Users\zavazava\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\PF7LKOSK\itu.int\en\ITU-D\Projects\Pages\Video-Gallery.aspx).
* **Project case studies:** BDT has developed a series of case studies based on implemented ITU projects. The case studies are short summary documents that provide essential information in an easy to read presentation format. Each case study aims at sharing information related to different ITU projects, their implemented activities, achieved results, lessons learned, conclusions and recommendations. ITU project case studies are a resource for stakeholders and ITU Members to share experiences, and give an opportunity for them to replicate good practices. They are published on [BDT Projects website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects/Pages/Case-Studies.aspx).

**9. Lessons learned, challenges and opportunities**

* It is evident that internal capacity building is needed on a continuous basis as project management practices are evolving all the time. For that reason, training courses were run for BDT staff as a way of upgrading skills. This included staff at headquarters and those in the field. More courses and a possible certification in project management is under consideration.
* The execution of post-implementation assessments continues to be an important effort, especially to increase the sharing of information, experiences and lessons learned of implemented projects. Given the overall number of ongoing projects and limited resources, BDT will continue to carry out project reviews on a selective basis where priority will be given to those projects with high impact.
* Externalities such as political and civil strife, as well as economic difficulties in some of the beneficiary countries, as well as the disruption of project implementation resulting from natural disasters, continue to be the cause of delays in the timely project implementation.
* Resource mobilization to raise extra budgetary funds for the implementation of BDT projects remains a crucial task but and also a difficult challenge. Continuous efforts are being made, especially through the strengthening of partnerships.

**Conclusion**

BDT projects continue to be a significant part of the BDT activities in terms of the direct assistance they provide to developing countries. The project execution function is one of the strengths of BDT. To this end, BDT continues to monitor, analyze the challenges as well as opportunities in the area of project development, implementation, and monitoring. In order to promote transparency and accountability in the execution of projects, BDT follows Results-Based Management and Project Management guidelines.

Special attention is given to ensure that Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are clearly defined for each project. During the course of the implementation of a project, KPIs are being monitored and once a project has been fully implemented, assessments are carried out against the set of previously defined KPIs.

The implementation of projects has proven to be an efficient way of responding to the specific needs of ITU Member States, in addition to BDT regular budget activities, and serves as an excellent mechanism of matching ICT-DF seed funds, external funding partners and beneficiary countries.

BDT projects are also an effective tool to implement the Regional Initiatives, which have been defined by Member States as the priority areas in which to focus on during a particular period, with the potential to benefit several countries in each region.

BDT is continuously innovating in order to respond to opportunities as well as challenges related to projects, by improving its project execution function, processes and reporting, in order to uphold accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of projects.

For more information on projects implemented by ITU, visit: <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects/Pages/default.aspx>

**Annex 1**

**63 Ongoing projects as of December 2018**

**(CHF)[[3]](#footnote-3)**

| **#** | **Title** | **in-cash external** | **in-cash ICT-DF** | **in-cash OP** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Smart Groundwater Management | 19,660 |  | 26,000 |
| 2 | National CIRT Establishment in The Gambia | 98,300 |  | 39,320 |
| 3 | ICT-Eye: keeping an eye on ICT data |  |  | 600,000 |
| 4 | Development of collaboration platform to foster affordable access to international optical fiber infrastructure |  |  | 160,500 |
| 5 | Digital Identity for Development |  |  | 200,000 |
| 6 | Enhancement of National Emergency Telecommunication Plans and Coordination to Save Lives |  |  | 500,000 |
| 7 | Global e-Waste Statistics 2018 | 63,201 |  | 45,144 |
| 8 | New graphical interface of the ITU Interactive Transmission Maps |  |  | 200,000 |
| 9 | CIRT Implementation of CIRT Services and related capabilities |  |  | 98,300 |
| 10 | Proyecto piloto para el uso de las TIC para situaciones de emergencia y desastres en la región de las Américas |  |  | 68,000 |
| 11 | Project for the use of ICTs in emergency and disaster situations in the Caribbean region- Phase 1 |  |  | 100,000 |
| 12 | Monitoreo del Espectro Radioelectrico | 132,320 | 123,087 | 123,087 |
| 13 | Rural Telecommunications Development in Least Developed Countries | 196,691 | 1,993,524 |  |
| 14 | SET-UP IPv6 and IoT EXPERTISE CENTRE | 294,654 | 294,654 |  |
| 15 | Réseau hertzien large bande de Madagascar | 737,250 | 245,750 |  |
| 16 | Establishment of a Cybersecurity Innovation Centre for the Arab Region | 1,966,000 | 739,708 |  |
| 17 | Connect a School, Connect a Community Initiative in the State of Palestine Project II | 40,000 | 110,000 |  |
| 18 | Regional Center ICT Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities | 49,150 | 73,725 | 25,000 |
| 19 | Broadband Wireless Network in Africa | 78,640 | 171,237 | 138,500 |
| 20 | Broadband Wireless Network - Djibouti | 840,465 |  |  |
| 21 | Broadband Wireless Network - Mali |  | 840,465 |  |
| 22 | Broadband Wireless Network - Burkina Faso | 840,465 |  |  |
| 23 | Broadband Wireless Network - Eswatini | 447,265 | 393,200 |  |
| 24 | Development of Satellite Communications Capacity and Emergency Communications Solutions for the Pacific Islands | 98,300 | 491,500 |  |
| 25 | Extension of Telemedicine to cover remote Areas in Zimbabwe | 282,742 | 68,810 |  |
| 26 | Universidades argentinas en la UIT | 66,932 |  |  |
| 27 | National CIRT Establishment in Burundi | 231,453 |  |  |
| 28 | Communications CIRT Establishment | 305,394 |  |  |
| 29 | Support the Implementation of National Telecommunications Agency (ANATEL, Brazil) | 35,748,490 |  |  |
| 30 | Diseño de estrategia para la implementación de mejores prácticas internacionales en la asignación de espectro atribuido al servicio móvil IMT en Colombia | 104,993 |  |  |
| 31 | Desarrollo del conocimiento en tecnologías, para especialistas del ICE | 290,438 |  |  |
| 32 | Reforma a la Ley General de Telecommunicaciones de la Republica Domincana (INDOTEL) | 171,572 |  |  |
| 33 | mHealth for NCDs Joint Programme | 170,215 |  |  |
| 34 | m Health for Strengthening National Diabetes Prevention and control in Tunisia | 294,900 |  |  |
| 35 | eMCM Master of Communications Management |  |  |  |
| 36 | Delivery of the Spectrum Management Training Program (SMTP) |  |  |  |
| 37 | Delivery of the Spectrum Management Training Program (SMTP) |  |  |  |
| 38 | Development of a toolkit for ICT innovation policy/governance and ICT innovation ecosystem-II | 87,743 |  |  |
| 39 | Basic National Spectrum Management System | 87,743 |  |  |
| 40 | Further developments to Spectrum Management System for Developing Countries (SMS4DC) software | 87,743 |  |  |
| 41 | Mainstreaming ICT Applications for SDG | 404,947 |  |  |
| 42 | Financial Inclusion Global Initiative (FIGI) | 672,372 |  |  |
| 43 | National Implementation of the Financial Inclusion Global Initiative (FIGI) in China | 224,124 |  |  |
| 44 | National Spectrum Management Assistance Workshop | 163,532 |  |  |
| 45 | Development of a toolkit for ICT innovation policy/governance and ICT innovation ecosystem | 109,021 |  |  |
| 46 | ICT Cooperation and partnership-TRA-UAE | 147,450 |  |  |
| 47 | Coding Camps and ICT training for Young Girls in Africa - Phase 1 | 600,637 |  |  |
| 48 | PRIDA-ITU Delegation Agreement for Action | 5,642,939 | 564,294 |  |
| 49 | Implementing the Climate Change Adaptation Component of the Satellite Communications, Capacity, and Emergency Communications Solutions Project for the Small Island Developing States of the Pacific | 112,859 |  |  |
| 50 | Master Plans for Spectrum Management and Country Assistance in Spectrum Management | 367,940 |  |  |
| 51 | Capacity Building for Countering Misappropriation of Telephone Numbers in Pacific Island Countries | 147,450 |  | 9,830 |
| 52 | Emergency Telecommunications in Asia and the Pacific | 168,290 |  |  |
| 53 | Cybersecurity in Pacific Island Countries | 157,772 |  |  |
| 54 | Enabling policy and regulatory environment in Asia-Pacific | 225,087 |  |  |
| 55 | Harnessing ICTs to support the digital economy and an inclusive digital society | 156,720 |  |  |
| 56 | Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity in Asia-Pacific | 242,968 |  |  |
| 57 | European mHealth Knowledge and Innovation Hub | 3,385,763 |  |  |
| 58 | Advisory Services to Saudi Arabia's Communication and Information Technology Commission (CITC) | 2,402,649 |  |  |
| 59 | ITU-NBTC Training Programme 2018 | 42,977 |  |  |
| 60 | Capacity Building through Centres of Excellence (CoEs) | 245,750 |  |  |
| 61 | Capacity Building on an ICT centric innovation ecosystem | 82,480 |  |  |
| 62 | Assistance for the Establishment of National Spectrum Management basic framework systems | 164,670 |  |  |
| 63 | International Research, Development and Testing Centre for new equipment, technologies, and services (IRDTC) - Phase 1 | 169,130 |  | 100,000 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **59,870,244** | **6,109,954** | **2,433,681** |
|  |  | 88% | 9% | 3% |

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1. For reporting purposes, all financial figures are converted into CHF using ITU’s accounting exchange rate of December 2018. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Please note that some projects fall under more than one area of action. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The amounts are based on the signed implementation budget. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)