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|  | **Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG)**  **32nd Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland, 12-16 May 2025** | | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | | **Document** **TDAG-25/****5-E** | |
|  | | **24 March 2025** | |
|  | | **Original: English** | |
| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau | | | |
| ITU-D Projects | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Summary:**  The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has a dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and as an executing agency. The Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) in fulfilling the Union's dual responsibility, has the key function of implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication development by offering, organizing, and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities.  This document presents an overview of the work undertaken by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) in project design, development, and assessment in the six ITU-D regions: Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and Europe, as well as multi-regions.  **Action required:**  TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.  **References:**  Resolutions 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) and 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) and Resolution 157 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022) of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-22). Resolution 1418 of the ITU Council. | | | |

# Introduction

In accordance with Resolutions 17 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) and 52 (Rev. Dubai, 2014) of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) and Resolution 157 (Rev. Bucharest, PP-22) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) holds the responsibility of fulfilling ITU´s mandate of implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) development by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities. This report presents an overview of the status of the portfolio of on-going ITU projects during 2024 (implementation period from January to December 2024).[[1]](#footnote-2)

# ITU project portfolio: Projects with activities in 2024

# Overview and regional distribution

During 2024, BDT implemented a total of 105 projects, valued at CHF 90.4 million. Figure 1 presents the overall distribution of this portfolio by region and the overview of (1) the funds mobilized to support the implementation of these projects, (2) the seed funding allocated by ITU from the ICT Development Fund (ICT-DF).

**Figure 1 – Overview of on-going ITU projects by region (figures in k CHF)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Region** | **Number of Projects** | **Funding from partners** | **ITU funds** | **Total project funding** |
| AFR | 17 | 26,548.5 | 1,516.8 | 28,065.3 |
| AMS | 19 | 12,600.3 | 335.5 | 12,935.8 |
| ARB | 5 | 2,989.6 | 664.5 | 3,654.1 |
| ASP | 15 | 6,667.2 | 655.6 | 7,322.9 |
| CIS | 4 | 342.0 | 532.2 | 874.1 |
| EUR | 4 | 4,034.6 | 44.2 | 4,078.8 |
| MUL (\*) | 41 | 26,852.4 | 6,676.5 | 33,528.9 |
| **Total** | **105** | **80,034.7** | **10,425.3** | **90,460.0** |

(\*) Multi-regional projects benefiting all regions

# Projects signed during the reporting period

In 2024, BDT signed a total of 37 new projects valued at CHF 28.6 million[[2]](#footnote-3). These figures represent the highest level of funds raised in projects in the last 10 years, confirming the positive trend of the efforts made by BDT to mobilize extra-budgetary funds in support of projects (see figure 2). The list of related agreements is available in Document INF/1.

**Figure 2 – New projects signed by ITU (2014-2024)**

These new projects are multi-regional, regional, and national in nature, and cover the full range of ITU-D priorities defined in the WTDC-22 Kigali Action Plan (KAP). With regards to source of funds, 92% of the funds for the new projects come from the extrabudgetary funds mobilized by BDT from third parties, while the remaining 8% is result from the allocation of seed-funds from ITU. Figure 3 provides a graph showing percentages of extra-budgetary funds and ITU funds contributing to project budgets.

**Figure 3 – Funding sources for ITU Projects (new projects signed in 2024)**

# Status update on the allocation of funding in support of the WTDC-22 Regional Initiatives

At the 2023 Session of the ITU Council, ITU membership approved the transfer of CHF 3 million from the Exhibition Working Capital Fund (EWCF) to the Capital Account of the Information and Communication Technologies Development Fund (ICT-DF) for the purpose of providing seed money for the financing of Regional Initiatives[[3]](#footnote-4).

During 2024, these funds were used to support a total of 13 projects valued at CHF 23.4 million (considering only the cash contributions made by partners), utilizing CHF 3.4 million from the ICT-DF (see Figure 4). Further details about each project are available at ITU’s projects portal[[4]](#footnote-5).

**Figure 4 – New ICT-DF projects signed during 2024 (figures in K CHF)**

| **Project ID** | **Project Title** | **Region** | **Regional Initiative** | **External Funds** | **ITU Funds** | **Total funds** | **Partner** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 7GLO24139 | Strengthening the capacity for the implementation of EC Funded projects | MUL | Multiple | (\*) | 840 | 840 | European Commission |
| 7GLO24144 | Early Warnings for All – ITU funds to support to the implementation of the initiative | MUL | Multiple | 1,577 | 528 | 2,105 | UNDRR, WMO |
| 7RAS24074 | Enhancing Resilient ICT Infrastructure in Asia and the Pacific (second phase) | ASP | ASP5 - Secure and resilient ICTs | 132 | 33 | 165 | MIC Japan |
| 7RAS24075 | Creating a Circular Economy for Electronics and Electricals in Thailand and Mongolia | ASP | ASP2 - Digital economy and inclusive digital societies | 225 | 53 | 278 | DITRDCA Australia |
| 9RAF24107 | EU Support to Africa's National Broadband Mapping Systems (AfricaBBMaps) | AFR | AFR2 - Infrastructure and connectivity | 16,500 | 970 | 17,470 | European Commission |
| 9RAS24077 | Strengthening Asia-Pacific Engagement in ITU Conferences (SAPEIC). | ASP | Multiple | 305 | 58 | 363 | DITRDCA Australia |
| 7CIS25001 | Digital Government Cooperation in the Central Asia and Caucasus Countries | CIS | CIS3 - Enabling regulatory environment | 88 | 88 | 176 | Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation and Aerospace Industry (MDDIAI) and the National Information Technologies JSC (NITEC) of Kazakhstan |
| 7GLO24142 | Partnership for Strengthening Cybersecurity | AFR | AFR3 - Trust, safety and security | 397 | 166 | 563 | GIZ |
| 7GLO24146 | Cyber for Good (Phase 2) | MULTI | Multiple | 132 | 132 | 264 | MSIT Korea |
| 7MNE24002 | Digital transformation of local self-governments in Montenegro | EUR | EUR2 - Digital transformation | 97 | 48 | 145 | Government Montenegro and SDG Acceleration Funds |
| 7RAF24106 | Cyber resilience for Digital Development in the Least Developed Countries | MULTI | Multiple | 97 | 50 | 147 | Czech Republic |
| 7RAS24076 | Feasibility study: Addressing the special telecommunications/ICT needs of the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) | ASP | ASP1 - Special needs LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs | 502 | 166 | 668 | DITRDCA Australia |
| 9GLO23134 | Assistance to encourage the use of innovative technologies for building a digital shared prosperity society | MULTI | Multiple | 199 | 74 | 273 | MSIT Korea |
|  | **Total** |  |  | **20,251** | **3,206** | **23,457** |  |

Note: All funds converted to CHF

(\*) External funds of 9,820 k CHF linked with the EU funded projects signed by ITU in 2023

It is important to note that since ITU is not a funding institution, the feasibility of signing new projects depends greatly on the availability of funding partners willing to support ITU’s work.

# Reinforcing project management practices in the BDT

BDT has continued during 2024 to strengthen project management practices across all ITU projects. The following list summarizes the activities conducted during the year, and which were implemented in close collaboration with other relevant ITU support functions:

* **Establishment of the new Project Implementation Unit (PPI)**. In September 2024, BDT Director introduced a new structure in the Bureau aimed at reinforcing the implementation of the mandate of the Kigali Action Plan (KAP) and building a BDT4Impact. The refined structure of the Bureau introduced a new unit aimed at strengthening the planning and implementation phases included in the BDT Project Management Manual. Hosted in the office of the Deputy to the Director, the Project Implementation Unit (PPI) is already working across all the thematic areas and project teams to accelerate implementation and ensure that BDT projects achieve the expected impact on the ground.
* **Strengthening reporting to partners.** In 2024, BDT introduced a new policy to strengthen reporting to funding partners. As part of the new policy, all funding partners are now receiving every 6-12 months at least one report presenting the implementation status of the projects they fund. The reports, prepared by project managers, with support from relevant ITU internal stakeholders, also highlight any challenges and risks that may have materialized during the reporting period, as well as the financial status of the project. The first batch of these reports was sent in July 2024, and the second batch during the first quarter of 2025. The new measure is aimed at strengthening transparency and accountability in the implementation of BDT projects.
* **Operation of the BDT Projects Board**: The BDT Projects Board has continued to meet monthly during 2024 to provide a clear governance mechanism at the portfolio level. The Board assess and approves new project proposals, addenda and closures, and provides guidance as appropriate to projects facing any implementation issues. To date, the Board has held a total of 37 meetings since 2020. The decisions made by the Board have mandatory compliance status by project managers. The decisions from the Board are regularly followed up by the Project Support Division and reported back to the Projects Board.
* **Series of trainings for project managers.**During 2024,BDT has continued to organize regular training sessions and information exchange sessions for project managers. These sessions have been aimed at harmonizing project practices across BDT, reinforcing the community of project managers, and further developing the skills from project managers on areas related with ITU’s work. This programme will continue throughout 2025.
* **Monitoring of ITU Projects**:AllITU projects continue to be monitored on a day-by-day basis and reported at the end of each quarter. The result of this work is made available to BDT Management and Project Managers via Quarterly Assessment reports, as well as using internal management dashboards, which enable data-driven decision making in relation to projects.

# Conclusions

2024 has been an important year in the progress of ITU projects. With activities in over 100 on-going projects and 37 new projects signed during the year, ITU projects continue to play an instrumental role in the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan and the provision of technical assistance to ITU Member States as well as to deliver new products and services in the area of digital development and transformation.

These achievements are the result of the close coordination and cooperation amongst all the teams in both the fields and headquarters of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, particularly with the support from the Projects, Partnerships and Digital Skills (PPS) Department of the BDT.[[5]](#footnote-6)

As ITU-D prepares for WTDC-25, TDAG is invited to continue providing guidance and advice on how to continue strengthening project practices in the BDT for meaningful impacts on the ground in the ITU-D membership through the development projects.

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1. *The figures provided in this document correspond to the financial balance at the 2024 closure of accounts (balance as of 31 December 2024).* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. *Note that this figure does not include addenda signed for ongoing projects, as well as other partnership agreements such as sponsorship agreements or voluntary contributions agreements, which are reported in document TDAG-25/INF/1.* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. *For further information see Resolution 1418, available at* [*https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0116/*](https://www.itu.int/md/S23-CL-C-0116/) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. *Available at* [*https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects*](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Projects) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. *More information about ITU-D partnerships and resource mobilization is available in documents* [*TDAG-25/9-E*](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG32-C-0009/)*and Document* [*TDAG-25/INF/3*](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG32-INF-0003/)*, and* [*TDAG-25/8-E*](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG32-C-0008/) *on ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, and Academia.* [↑](#footnote-ref-6)