Digital Inclusion

Inclusive, equal access and use of ICTs for all

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The Challenge: persistent digital divide

ICTs have the potential to improve people’s lives. They pose opportunities for individuals and communities alike. ICTs, however, are not always equally accessible to everyone and the opportunities they provide are not evenly distributed.

- Some people with specific needs (i.e. associated to differences of age, gender, ability, socioeconomic status and geography) may have barriers to access and use digital information and services.
- Substantial digital divides persist between countries. Indeed, nearly 87 per cent of people were using the Internet in developed countries in 2019, compared with 47 per cent in developing countries.
- Digital divides are also evident within countries. Men, urban residents and young people are more likely to be online than women, rural dwellers and older persons. The digital gender gap is more pronounced in developing countries and substantial in least developed countries.
The Solution:

_Inclusive, equal access and use of ICTs for all_

**Two impact pathways:**

1. Support **Member States, sector members and academia** in the formulation and implementation of **policies and strategies** on digital inclusion, as well as **awareness raising** and **advocacy**, sharing **good practices** and knowledge, **building capacity** and the development products/services.

2. Support **specific local communities** (children, youth, older persons, women, persons with disabilities and indigenous people) through multi-stakeholder **partnerships, collaborations and initiatives**, to implement scalable roadmaps, actions, activities, and projects, to reduce the digital divide and towards more inclusive, equal access and use of ICTs for all.

"INCLUDE EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE IN A DIGITAL SOCIETY"
In Focus: "Leave no one behind"

SDG 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 17
No Poverty, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Reduced Inequalities, Partnership for the Goals

WSIS Action Lines:
C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8, C9

"Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development"

Goal No. 2: Inclusiveness – Bridge the digital divide and provide broadband access for all;

ITU Resolutions:
EMPOWERMENT OF YOUTH & CHILDREN THROUGH ICTs CONTRIBUTES TO BENEFIT FROM TODAY’S DIGITAL ECONOMY AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

- PP Resolution 198 (Rev. Dubai, 2018): Empowerment of youth through telecommunication/information and communication technology
- WTDC Resolution 76 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017): Promoting information and communication technologies among young women and men for social and economic empowerment
- PP Resolution 179 (Rev. Dubai, 2018): The role of ITU on Child Online Protection
- WTDC Resolution 67 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017): The role of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector in child online protection

ITU Resolutions:
EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN & GIRLS THROUGH ICTs CONTRIBUTES TO GENDER EQUALITY

- PP Resolution 70 (Rev. Dubai, 2018): Mainstreaming a gender perspective in ITU and promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women through ICTs

ITU Resolutions:
EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH ICTs TO ENSURE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- PP Resolution 175 (Rev. Dubai, 2018): ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs
- WTDC Resolution 58 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017): ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, including persons with age-related disabilities

“Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development”

ITU Resolutions:
**In Focus: "Leave no one behind"**

**SDG 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 17**

*No Poverty, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Reduced Inequalities, Partnership for the Goals*

**“Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development”**

Goal No. 2: Inclusiveness – Bridge the digital divide and provide broadband access for all;

**WSIS Action Lines:**

C1, C2, C3, C4, C5, C6, C7, C8, C9

**Regional initiatives:**

- **Africa:** AFR3
- **Americas:** AMS4
- **Arab States:** ARB2, ARB3
- **Asia-Pacific:** ASP2
- **CIS:** CIS2
- **EUR:** EUR3, EUR4

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**ITU Resolutions:**

**EMPOWERMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND PEOPLE LIVING IN REMOTE AREAS THROUGH ICTs TO ENABLE FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE DIGITAL ECONOMY**

- WTDC Resolution 11 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017): ICT technology services in rural, isolated and poorly served areas and indigenous communities
- WTDC Resolution 46 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017): Assistance to indigenous peoples and communities through information and communication technology
- PP RESOLUTION 184 (Guadalajara, 2010) Facilitating digital inclusion initiatives for indigenous peoples

**EMPOWERMENT OF OLDER PERSONS THROUGH ICTs TO ENABLE THEIR INCLUSION**

- WTDC Resolution 58 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017): ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities, including persons with age-related disabilities
**In Focus: "Leave no one behind"**

**SDG 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 17**
No Poverty, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Reduced Inequalities, Partnership for the Goals

**“Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development”**
Goal No. 2: Inclusiveness – Bridge the digital divide and provide broadband access for all;

**WSIS Action Lines:**
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**Projects:**

**Implemented**
- ITU and UN Women, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, implemented the African Girls Can CODE Initiative (AGCCI)

**Ongoing – under implementation**
- DOCA Project on Child Online Protection in Asia Pacific

**Under development, and/or to be signed**
- EIF/ITU EQUALS in Tech. Enhancing the Digital Ecosystem and Digital Skills for the economic empowerment of women in LDCs (partially funded by ICT-DF Funds)
- Pacific and Arab Girls Can Code initiative *
- Global concept on the implementation of the COP Guidelines to develop national strategies *
- ICT Accessibility related projects*

*to be co-funded by RI and external funds
Inclusive, equal access and use of ICTs for all.

By 2023, 30% of targeted groups have inclusive, equal access and use of ICTs.

By 2023, 30 governments implemented digital policies and strategies.

By 2023, 30% of local/specific communities adopt concrete roadmaps to ensure inclusive, equal access and use of ICTs.

By 2023, 20% of local/specific communities related to the target groups.

By 2023, 30% of local/specific communities adopted concrete roadmaps to ensure children have safe access and use of ICTs.

By 2023, 50000 children (under 18) involved in Girls in ICT Global Campaign, COP, Youth and EQUALS related activities.

By 2023, the current Partnerships (EQUALS, COP, Girls in ICTs) have increased their membership by 20% and their activities by 20%.

Impact pathway 1: Decision and policy makers

Impact pathway 2: End users: specific communities and people
## Partnership Plan (current)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact Pathway</th>
<th>Key Colleagues</th>
<th>Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COP National strategies Project in 6 Asia Pacific countries</td>
<td>Sameer Sharma (Asia)</td>
<td>Australia GSMA and Telecom Operators Children and Parents associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EQUALS inTech Project:</strong> Enhancing the Digital Ecosystem and Digital Skills for the economic empowerment of women in LDCs</td>
<td>Loly Gaitan &amp; Carla Licciardello, Cleveland Thomas and Ida Jallow</td>
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<td>Germany, GIZ, EIF, GSMA, ISOC EQUALS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### BDT Thematic Priority Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Announcements</th>
<th>Release Date</th>
<th>Target Audience</th>
<th>Key Message</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Launch COP Guidelines & Mascot Social media Launch | June 2020       | Government, Private Sector, International and Regional Organizations, Academia & Civil Society | 1. ITU's COP Guidelines targeting policy makers, industry, children, parents and educators represent a solid starting point that supports the development and strengthening of online skills for children as well as international and national efforts on COP.  
2. ITU has reviewed the COP guidelines fundamentally to reflect the very significant shifts in children’s digital environment.  
3. Reaching children and parents through social media, Sango, the voice of the Child Online Protection Initiative, will share news, advice and challenges supporting the development of digital skills and digital literacy. |
| EQUALS in Tech Awards ceremony                  | June 2020       | Government, Private Sector, International and Regional Organizations, Academia & Civil Society | The ceremony will have the chance to promote the work of excellent organizations who are mainstreaming gender and ICTs.                                                                                           |
2. Regional Assessment in ICT Accessibility implementation in Asia and Pacific region  
3. The "ICT accessibility – The key to inclusive communication" online self-paced training will be made available also in French, Spanish and Arabic  
4. Accessible Americas – ICT for ALL and Accessible Europe – ICT for ALL |
Impact Story

Virtual Girls in ICT Day celebrations 2020

EQUALS delegation at ITU Telecom World 2019, Hungary

I am Sangophone! - COP Mascot 2020

African Girls Can Code 2019, Ethiopia

Virtual Girls in ICT Day celebrations 2020
Impact Stories

ICT Accessibility for PwD and other persons with specific needs

Indigenous People

Accessible Americas & Accessible Europe "ICT for ALL"
Regional Knowledge Development Platforms

"Training Programme for technical promoters in indigenous communities", Mexico, 2020
Impact Story

Global Young Visionaries Summit
FerMUN 2020 - Model UN
January 2020, Geneva

Futurecasters Video (click here)
Digital Inclusion cluster contributions to the COVID-19 response:

- ITU short guidelines in making digital information accessible for Persons with Disabilities: On how to ensure that digital information, services and products are accessible by all people, including persons with disabilities during COVID-19.
- Technical note COVID-19 and its implications for protecting children online, from ITU and UNICEF, GPEVAC, UNESCO, UNODC, WePROTECT Global Alliance, WHO and World Childhood Foundation USA aiming to help governments, ICT companies, educators and parents protect children in lockdown.
- Call to Action: The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (UN IANYD) Statement on COVID-19 and Youth. ITU and 50 IANYD UN members, as well as 168 youth entities from the IANYD Youth Caucus support the call to action.

Digital inclusion adjusted actions due to COVID-19:

- Girls in ICT Day 2020 virtual format: In 2020, International Girls in ICT Day was celebrated on 23 April. A “24h World Tour of Girls in ICT Day celebrations highlights” featured some of the virtual celebrations taking place all over the world during the Day. ITU hosted an online dialogue on Girls in ICT: Inspiring the Next Generation.
- Virtual meetings/webinars/dialogues, instead of face to face meetings.
- Delivery of virtual trainings.
- Virtual delivery of guidelines and toolkits.