



ITU Regional Development Forum for Africa (RDF-AFR)

**‘Digital transformation for a sustainable and equitable digital future:
Accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in Africa’**

organized by the International Telecommunication Union in collaboration with the
Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Ethiopia

**3-5 October 2023
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Please note that submitted information will be presented during the RDF-AFR P2C Roundtables and it will also be reflected on the pledging platform of the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

ORGANIZATION: ITU and United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

FOCAL POINT:

Ananya Dasgupta, Digital Inclusion Adviser, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (ananya.dasgupta@fcdo.gov.uk)

TITLE: ITU and FCDO continue partnership to support meaningful connectivity in underserved communities

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

Since 2021, ITU has been working in partnership with the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's through a digital inclusion project under the wider UK Digital Access Programme (DAP) in five countries, including Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa, to support governments on regulation, sustainability, investment, and digital skills working towards achieving universal connectivity. The overall DAP works on catalysing inclusive, affordable, safe and secure digital access for digitally-underserved communities in five partner countries (Brazil, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Indonesia), with an emphasis on marginalised groups like women and girls, and persons living with disabilities. The DAP has reached 10.2 million people so far, in 3,282 underserved communities, enhancing their digital inclusion in terms of digital connectivity, skills, content and services, by helping shape 97 national strategies and regulatory frameworks, as well as by testing 264 tech and business models that are scalable and sustainable. The Programme has also built cybersecurity capacity and tech entrepreneurship in its five partner countries. Alongside the ITU, DAP also partners with the Association for Progressive Communications and Dynamic Spectrum Alliance to provide technical assistance and capacity building for developing affordable models for last mile connectivity.

The current first phase of the ITU-FCDO digital inclusion partnership project (as part of the wider DAP) has seen regulatory and policy support provided through:

- the development and delivery of training related to efficient use of universal service financing funds, both in person and online through the ITU Academy;
- an assessment into Kenya's project to connect schools to the internet through their Universal Service Fund;
- country reviews examining countries regulatory progress and advising on best practices to enable more collaborative regulatory practices;
- tailored training on using the Universal Service Fund efficiency toolkit, spectrum management and engineering among other diverse topics within last mile connectivity





- and additional support and advisory services to the respective governments.

On the topic of sustainability and investment, ITU has developed interactive infrastructure maps to aid governments in designing and assessing the most appropriate and sustainable solutions for last mile connectivity. Complementary to this, exploratory research has focussed on infrastructure cost analysis and the development of potential sustainable operating models to connect schools. Ongoing work in this area includes exploring opportunities for innovation in last-mile connectivity, and the undertaking of in-country digital skills assessments.

As Phase 1 of the Project comes to an end, we would like to **invite partner countries** that have benefited from this initiative to recount their experiences and share the ways in which the activities of the project have contributed to their efforts to extend infrastructure and connect underserved schools and wider communities.

We would like to **invite ITU and FCDO** colleagues to share their key insights on how this project has contributed to promoting digital development in partner countries, and to highlight the rationale for their continued collaboration on closing the digital divide.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION:

☒ 2023

☒ 2024

☐ 2025

RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE:

☐ AFR1: Supporting digital transformation to usher in a rapid transition to a digital economy while accelerating innovation in Africa

☒ AFR2: Implementation and expansion of broadband infrastructures, connectivity and emerging technologies

☐ AFR3: Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs and protection of personal data

☐ AFR4: Fostering emerging technologies and innovation ecosystems

Please find more information on the ITU Regional Initiatives 2023-2025, as defined by WTDC-22, [here](#).

RELATED ITU-D PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY THE ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2022

☒ Affordable connectivity

☐ Digital transformation

☒ Enabling policy and regulatory environment

☐ Resource mobilization and international cooperation

☒ Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development





Please find more information on the ITU-D Priorities, as defined by WTDC-22, [here](#).

RELATED ITU PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

- ☐ Spectrum use for space and terrestrial services
- ☐ International telecommunication numbering resources
- ☒ Inclusive and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services
- ☐ Digital applications
- ☒ Enabling environment

Please find more information on the ITU Priorities, as defined by PP-22, [here](#)

RELATED WSIS ACTION LINE:

- ☐ C1: The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
- ☒ C2: Information and communication infrastructure
- ☐ C3: Access to information and knowledge
- ☐ C4: Capacity building
- ☒ C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs
- ☒ C6: Enabling environment
- ☐ C7: ICT applications
- ☐ C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
- ☐ C9: Media
- ☐ C10: Ethical dimensions the Information Society
- ☐ C11: International and regional cooperation

RELATED SDG:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 1: No Poverty | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 2: Zero Hunger | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 3: Good Health and Well- being | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 4: Quality Education | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 5: Gender Equality | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 13: Climate Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 14: Life Below Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy | |





☐ SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

☒ SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

☐ SDG 15: Life on Land

☐ SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

☒ SDG 17: Partnerships for the SDGs

