



Cairo, 12 July 2026

The ICT Development Index 2026: Measuring Progress, Building the Future We Want in the Arab States.

Dear Members,

The ICT Development Index 2026 is out, and the story it tells about the Arab States is one our region can be justly proud of.

Every year, the ITU's IDI turns the intangible promise of connection into measurable, comparable evidence that holds us accountable to our commitments. This year's edition shows a region on the move.

The Arab States' average IDI score has climbed since 2023, placing us among the world's fastest-improving regions, alongside the Americas and the Commonwealth of Independent States. Behind that average sit millions of people who have crossed, for the first time, from the margins of disconnection into the mainstream of the digital economy.

Some of the most extraordinary gains belong to those who began this cycle furthest behind. Countries such as Somalia, Comoros, and Yemen, several of them rebuilding under enormous constraint, recorded some of the fastest relative improvements in the entire region. Djibouti moved steadily forward, and Palestine, navigating extraordinary circumstances, still advanced. Behind each of these gains are families gaining access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunity for the first time.

At the frontier, a group of our economies now sets the global benchmark for connectivity itself. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Oman rank among the very highest-scoring economies on Earth, several of them approaching universal connectivity. For these countries, the frontier has shifted. The work ahead is less about basic access and more about deepening meaningful, affordable, high-quality use for every citizen.

The momentum runs right through the middle of the table too. Algeria, Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, Iraq, and Egypt all posted strong advances this cycle. These are not accidents. They are the direct result of deliberate, sustained investment in household connectivity, the expansion of mobile broadband networks, and targeted policies to improve affordability.

Progress is rarely a straight line. But across our region it is real, and it is accelerating.

That same ambition points us to our next task. Data gaps meant Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, and Sudan could not be scored in this edition. It is a clear message from the 2026 report: we must strengthen national statistical systems and make measurement a core part of the digital development agenda. Bringing every Member State fully into the index is how we ensure that every country is seen, supported, and counted in our collective progress.

Numbers, of course, do not connect a village, lower a data tariff, or place a first smartphone in a household. The people of our region do that work: the policymakers, the engineers, the entrepreneurs, and the communities who turn connectivity into opportunity. And they have done so.

What the IDI offers is a mirror. It shows us where our collective work is succeeding, where it is stalling, and where we must redouble our efforts. Our region has real cause to celebrate this year's results. Our responsibility now is to earn next year's.

To every Member State, every ministry, every operator, and every community that helped move these numbers forward: Mabrouk. This progress belongs to you.

Read full report here: <https://www.itu.int/itu-d/reports/statistics/idi2026/>

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