



ANNEX 2

ITU Regional Development Forum (RDF) for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Region (RDF-CIS)

26-27 March 2024

Astana, Kazakhstan

Organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Hosted by the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation, and Aerospace Industry of
the Republic of Kazakhstan

CONTRIBUTION FORM

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

Once completed please send to ITU-RO-CIS@itu.int

ORGANIZATION: "Union of Operators of Armenia" NGO, Republic of Armenia

FOCAL POINT: Kristine Gyonjyan, director, kristine@operator.am, +37444090788

TITLE: *Rural Connectivity Pilot Project*

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION: *Provide a brief description up to 500 words*

The "Rural Connectivity" Armenia pilot project is dedicated to addressing the digital divide in rural areas by providing high-speed internet access to underserved communities. Our project is currently underway in six selected communities, with the aim of establishing robust infrastructure to facilitate connectivity for over 600 households.

Project Overview:

Objective: To provide rural populations with high-speed internet access.

Implementation: Six underserved communities have been selected for the pilot project.

Infrastructure: Upon completion of the project second phase, over 16 kilometers of backbone infrastructure will be established to enable connectivity.

Current Progress: Zangakatun (350 households), Vardashat (110 households), and Urtsalanj (55 households) have been successfully connected.

Upcoming Connectivity: Lanjar (50 households), Lusashogh (110 households), and Lanjanist (30 households) are scheduled for connection upon project completion.

Capacity-Building Plan:

- Following community connectivity, a comprehensive capacity-building plan will be implemented to address the specific needs of newly connected rural communities.
- The plan includes training sessions covering Basic Digital Literacy, Internet Safety and Security, Communication and Collaboration Tools, Media Literacy and Critical Thinking, Digital Entrepreneurship, and Economic Opportunities.

Conclusion:

The "Community Networks" Armenia pilot project represents a critical step towards bridging the digital divide in rural areas. Through the establishment of high-speed internet access and comprehensive capacity-building initiatives, we aim to empower communities with the tools and knowledge necessary to thrive in the digital age.

COUNTRIES IN FOCUS: Name countries to be impacted by this action

Armenia, Region Ararat

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION: *Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items*

- ✓ 2024
☐ 2025

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RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE: *Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items*

- ☐ CIS1: Developing infrastructure to promote innovation and partnerships in the introduction of new technologies – the Internet of Things, including the industrial Internet, smart cities and communities, 5G/IMT-2020 and next-generation NET-2030 communication networks, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, digital health, digital skills and environmental protection
- ☐ CIS2: Cybersecurity and personal data protection
- ☐ CIS3: Creating an enabling legal and regulatory environment to accelerate digital transformation
- ✓ CIS4: Digital skills and information and communication technology accessibility for the public, in particular for persons with disabilities
- ✓ CIS5: Development of smart cities and communities

Use the link below you discover more information on the ITU Regional Initiatives 2023-2025, as defined by WTDC-22: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/regional-initiatives-2023-2025.aspx>

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](#)