

Report of activities for the 2024 work period

DRAFT VERSION 1 SEPTEMBER 2024

This Report summarises the activities of the joint subgroup on the ICT Development Index (IDI subgroup) for the 2024 work period and will be submitted to the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and the Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) during their annual meetings in September 2024.

1. Background

On 21 September 2023, during a joint session of the [14th Meeting](#) of the ITU Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) and [11th Meeting](#) of the ITU Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH), members agreed to establish a joint EGTI-EGH subgroup on the IDI methodology.

A total of 88 individuals from approximately 32 countries joined the subgroup. Affiliations included statistics office, national telecommunication regulators, ministries, research organizations, and ITU sector members.

The subgroup worked from April to August 2024, during the 2024 work period of EGTI and EGH. For the 2024 work period, the subgroup adopted the following [Terms of Reference](#):¹

1. Review the conceptual framework (“Universal and meaningful connectivity”) of the current methodology of the IDI.
2. Review indicators of the IDI and identify indicators for potential inclusion in the IDI, based on relevance, availability, and quality, and recommend a list of potential indicators for a revised IDI methodology.
3. In collaboration with relevant stakeholders (e.g., ITU-D Study Groups), identify aspects of ICT development for which new indicators should be defined and recommend those as possible topics for future work of EGTI and EGH.

Should EGTI and EGH decide to reconduct the IDI subgroup for the work period 2025, the Terms of Reference may be revised.

2. Working methods

At the onset, the subgroup established the following working methods, while tools were also developed to facilitate its work:

¹ Some links in this Report point to documents hosted on the subgroup’s Microsoft Teams Channel. See ‘Working methods’ section for information.

- A dedicated [Microsoft Teams channel](#) whose access was granted to all participants having asked to join the subgroup and provided a valid email address.²
- A [submission template](#), used by proponents of new indicators/criteria/themes for the IDI (see below).
- A [log of submissions](#), updated by the co-leads between meetings of the subgroup.
- An [interactive dashboard](#) reporting the availability for ITU indicators.

The latest version of the work log and the submission template are annexed to this Report, as well as a summary of the submissions received.

3. Summary of meetings

The subgroup met five times during the 2024 work period. Refer to the summaries of each meeting for more information in Annex 2.

- **24 April 2024, 13:00-14:30 (Geneva time).** In this meeting, the subgroup considered the terms of reference, supported the current [conceptual framework](#) of the IDI around universal and meaningful connectivity, considered the [criteria selection](#) used to date in indicator selection, and reviewed administrative matters. ([Meeting summary](#))
- **14 May 2024, 13:30-15:00.** The subgroup endorsed its terms of reference for the 2024 work period, reviewed materials to propose contributions and the list of contributions register, approved the themes/criteria/indicators categorisation process, and discussed data availability as a challenge for indicator selection. ([Meeting summary](#))
- **5 June 2024, 13:30-15:00.** The subgroup agreed on the Candidate Indicators Framework (see Section 4), noted the [ITU data availability dashboard](#), and received an update on the [calculation of household data at the UN level](#) from the secretariat. It discussed pricing baskets, affordability, skills, cybersecurity in an open discussion. ([Meeting summary](#))
- **27 June 2024, 13:30-15:00.** The subgroup discussed indicators on speed, devices, affordability, and network infrastructure and considered the feasibility with regard to changing the reference year for future editions of the ICT Development Index. ([Meeting summary](#))
- **24 July 2024, 13:30-15:00.** The co-chairs introduced a preliminary draft version of the subgroup's Report and invited members of the subgroup to share any feedback on the report by 21 August 2024, so that the Report can be finalised in time for the meetings of EGTI and EGH.

4. Candidate indicators

The subgroup established criteria to identify and develop 'Candidate Indicators' for possible inclusion in future versions of the IDI methodology.

During the process of developing the IDI in 2023, many indicators considered for inclusion were not retained due to a lack of data availability or/and quality. Most of these indicators are derived from household surveys. While international organizations like ITU set statistical standards,

² Access code: hwekexu. EGTI/EGH members wishing to join the IDI subgroup can write to indicators@itu.int.

they rely on data collected by countries. Availability, therefore, depends on the capacity of countries to collect data, notably through household surveys. Many countries don't conduct regular, dedicated ICT household surveys. Some piggyback on other surveys to collect a small set of ICT indicators, while others don't collect any data for household indicators.

The prioritization and supply of data is influenced by the demand from policymakers. In this context, tools like the IDI may stimulate the demand for and—indirectly—improve the supply of data. However, if data is collected only for those indicators included in the IDI, the availability and quality of other indicators will not improve, and these indicators can never be considered for inclusion.

To help solve this conundrum, the concept of a 'Candidate Indicator' was agreed upon. A candidate indicator is an indicator that could be recommended for inclusion during an eventual revision of the IDI methodology. Identifying candidate indicators will shine a light on them and help national statistical offices prioritize data collection efforts. They may help focus discussions among experts during a possible revision of the IDI and enhance clarity on rationales for indicator inclusion and exclusion.

For an indicator to be designated as Candidate Indicator, it should satisfy most, if not all of the following criteria: relevance, availability, reliability, and source (see diagram below). In addition, they should receive very broad support from the subgroup.

Many indicators proposed by subgroup participants fit the IDI conceptual framework and received broad support among the subgroup but lack full maturity due to issues of methodology and data availability.

Should its mandate be extended, the subgroup may refine the assessment of indicators that were already proposed, consider new ones, and aim to identify suitable Candidate Indicators among them.

Indicator Criteria

EGTI-EGH JOINT SUB-GROUP 2024
ICT DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Only relevant for indicator proposals. Subject to change based on sub-group activity.

Relevance	What themes apply? How does this indicator relate to the conceptual framework of universal and meaningful connectivity?
Availability	If possible, please discuss the availability of this data within the past three years across the economies where ITU data is published.
Reliability	Does the indicator have a stable data collection methodology? Has it been regularly collected at a reasonable frequency over the past decade?
Source	Does the indicator come from an official source/s?

5. Summary of Discussed Topics

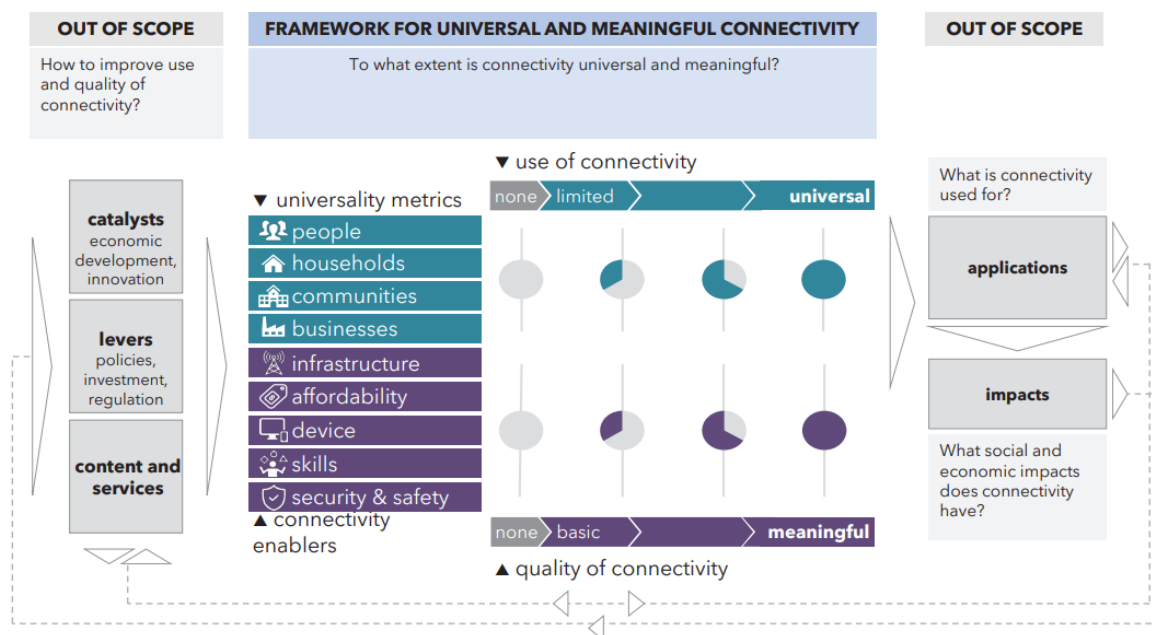
The subgroup discussed several relevant topics regarding possible indicators for the Index.

- **Concept:** the framework of Universal and Meaningful Connectivity
- **Themes:** Growth rates, ICT skills, cybersecurity, regulatory environment
- **Criteria:** Data availability/estimation thresholds, reference year
- **Indicators:** Affordability measurement, pricing baskets, broadband speeds (mobile and fixed), devices, fixed broadband access, Global Cybersecurity Index, 5G networks

Conceptual framework

The subgroup validated the conceptual framework of Universal and Meaningful Connectivity as the basis for the index. The pillars and its sub themes were considered to provide a good direction for the design and selection of the future indicators to be considered for review.

Figure 1: Universal and meaningful connectivity framework



Source: *Measuring digital development; The ICT Development Index 2023*.

Following the diagram provided in the publication of the 2023 version of the index, it will be possible in the future to properly allocate the indicators currently in discussion to the pillars.

ICT skills

Previous editions of the IDI included a proxy indicator intended to reflect the level of skills development of countries. The indicator that reflects the level of skills of the population must come from several different items to be included in household surveys and is not sufficiently reported by countries. During the development of the current IDI in 2023, there was no agreement on the use of proxy indicators for ICT skills.

It has been suggested that the theme of skills be included in the next revision of the IDI, for its relevance to policy making and its adherence to the framework of universal and meaningful connectivity. Currently, there are two main barriers for the inclusion of an ICT skills indicator based on data submitted by Member States. The first is data availability, the second is the need to define how to properly include this dimension into the index, be it the complete set of items, a subset of those items or some form of aggregate indicator.

It is also worth noting that there is an EGH subgroup dedicated to the development and updating of the skills indicators. The outcomes of that subgroup can inform the decision of this joint subgroup in terms of choosing the best option, provided that the data is available in time for the next revision cycle.

Cybersecurity

The subgroup received submissions proposing an indicator covering cybersecurity to be included in the index for the next revision cycle. It is adherent to the framework of universal and meaningful connectivity, that includes the dimension of safety and security as a relevant aspect for a meaningful connectivity.

One possible indicator mentioned by some participants was the Global Cybersecurity Index, published by ITU. The most recent version (GCIv4) dates to 2020, with an updated methodology (GCIv5) expected to be published in late 2024. This might pose challenges in the context of an annual assessment. Moreover, some concerns were raised regarding the effect of including one composite indicator within the other, which could bring unnecessary noise to the data. This means that an adequate indicator must be agreed on, so this dimension is properly included in a future version of the IDI.

Fixed broadband penetration

This indicator has received the highest number of requests for inclusion. There was a consensus that the IDI should include a measure of fixed broadband penetration to reflect the concept of universal access, and fixed broadband penetration, with households to be used as denominator, is considered the most appropriate. However, there is an ongoing issue with the denominator being used, namely that the ITU does not have the mandate to collect and/or estimate the official number of households by country. A subgroup in 2023 was established to examine possible alternative denominator, such as overall population or population aged 18 or older, but consensus was not reached at that time and the indicator was not included in the current IDI structure despite its availability and adherence to the conceptual framework.

The secretariat has provided the subgroup with an update on how different UN agencies are collaborating to fix this lack of official information. There is some progress as for the creating of an initiative to address it, but no clear timeline was provided.

Internet speed

It was proposed to include an indicator on the availability of higher speed tiers to reflect the efforts of deploying higher capacity infrastructure and allow meaningful connectivity thanks to improved quality of service for the end user.

Different alternatives were discussed, such as an indicator defined as the share of high-speed tiers (e.g., subscriptions greater than 10 Mbit/s or greater than 100 Mbit/s) in the total number of fixed broadband subscriptions, as well as using private (crowd-sourced) data sources of speed tests such as Ookla/Speedtest. Regarding the indicator for the share of high-speed tiers of fixed broadband, concerns were raised that including it without an agreed indicator for fixed broadband internet penetration in the Index could create an imbalanced perception. For example, a country could perform better by having a low penetration of higher speed connections when compared to a similar country with a large share of connected households with lower speeds. Regarding the second indicator option, it was discussed as a valid alternative, even though it comes from a private, non-official source.

Devices

The IDI defined in 2023 includes the indicator on percentage of individuals owning a mobile phone to reflect the aspect of devices for accessing the internet, which is often correlated to performing activities and developing skills. This indicator comes from household surveys, has a medium level of availability, and has a good capacity to be estimated.

A proposal was submitted for the inclusion of the proportion of households with a computer, an indicator also originating from household surveys. Conceptually, it would be reasonable to reflect both types of devices in the Index because of its relationship with activities and skills. What often happens is that individuals with higher income can combine both categories of devices, while those with lower income are mobile-only users. The main barrier for its inclusion is the low level of available data.

Affordability

A couple of relevant points were raised during the subgroup discussions regarding the measure of affordability within the index. The first point concerns clarifying the difference between Purchase Power Parity (PPP) and Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, which was also discussed during the definition of the 2023 methodology. The second point regards the choice of mobile broadband basket being used in the Index, arguing that it makes more sense conceptually to use a data-only mobile broadband basket rather than a basket that includes both data and voice services.

Network Capacity

Three different proposals were grouped into this category regarding a dimension of infrastructure that denotes overall capacity of countries' networks, such as the Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) subscriptions as a percentage of total broadband subscriptions, the International bandwidth per Internet user and the percentage of population covered by a 5G mobile network.

It was also argued that, to some extent, indicators such as 5G coverage would replace the need for a mobile internet speed indicator, since the parameters of such technology allow deductions to be made regarding the associated speed tier of such generation. On the other hand, Internet speed, as discussed in the previous topic, also reflects aspects such as quality of experience. The relationship between the dimension of Network Capacity and Internet Speed demands a joint analysis.

The perception of the group converged to an understanding that the 5G indicator might be too premature for the IDI, since many countries are still deploying such technology and others are reporting zero coverage.

Timeliness

Members emphasized the importance of timely and accurate data, suggesting that the IDI report be published earlier in the year to increase its relevance. The ITU secretariat explained that every effort is made to minimize the lag between the reference period used in the IDI and its release. For the 2024 edition, released in June 2024, the lag with the reference period (2022) was 18 months. Future editions might be released even earlier, further reducing the lag by a few months. However, publishing the IDI with the preceding year as the reference year is not feasible, as it would necessitate relying solely on data from short questionnaires. These short questionnaires often contain preliminary data that might be revised later and typically have fewer data submissions than the long questionnaires sent later in the year. This would result in

assessments based on less accurate data and an increased share of estimated data points due to the higher incidence of missing data.

6. Conclusions and recommendations

During the 2024 work period, the joint EGTI-EGH subgroup on the ICT Development Index agreed its working methods, reaffirmed the relevance of and support for the universal and meaningful connectivity conceptual framework of the IDI, and began discussions on various indicators for the next revision of the IDI.

As a result of its deliberations, the subgroup makes the following recommendations submitted for consideration by the EGTI and EGH during their annual meetings:

1. Continue to use universal and meaningful connectivity as the underpinning conceptual framework of the IDI;
2. Adopt the Candidate Indicators framework; and
3. Extend the subgroup's mandate for another year.

Annexes

1. Submission template
2. List of received submissions
3. Summaries of subgroup's meetings

Annex 1 – Submission template

The editable template is [available](#) on the subgroup’s Teams channel.

Proposal Summary

EGTI-EGH JOINT SUB-GROUP 2024
ICT DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Title	
Abstract	
Type (choose one)	THEME / CRITERIA / INDICATOR

Contact Point	
Affiliation	

Justification / Background

EGTI-EGH JOINT SUB-GROUP 2024
ICT DEVELOPMENT INDEX

[Please use this box to add longer form text that supports your proposal or adds relevant additional information.]

Indicator Criteria

EGTI-EGH JOINT SUB-GROUP 2024
ICT DEVELOPMENT INDEX

Only relevant for indicator proposals. Subject to change based on subgroup activity.

Relevance	What themes apply? How does this indicator relate to the conceptual framework of universal and meaningful connectivity?
Availability	If possible, please discuss the availability of this data within the past three years across the economies where ITU data is published.
Reliability	Does the indicator have a stable data collection methodology? Has it been regularly collected at a reasonable frequency over the past decade?
Source	Does the indicator come from an official source/s?

Template Guidance

EGTI-EGH JOINT SUB-GROUP 2024
ICT DEVELOPMENT INDEX

You can use this slide as guidance for completing this template for your proposal to the EGTIEGH Joint Sub-Group on the ICT Development Index. Once complete, you can delete this slide.

Title	Please provide a short description of your proposal.
Abstract	Please provide a 2-3 sentence summary of your proposal.
Type	<p>Please choose one of the three options: theme, criteria, or indicator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Themes discuss broad concepts relevant to the IDI and its conceptual framework and would likely hold one or more indicators within it (where appropriate).• Criteria are the basis by which the sub-group will review and consider indicators. So far, relevance, availability, reliability, and source have been the four bases of analysis.• Indicator would be a precise proposal for a new indicator to be included into the IDI. Proposals for indicators should indicate the relevant theme and respond to the evaluation criteria.
Contact Point	Please add your name and email address.
Affiliation	Please indicate your affiliation (typically the organisation of your ITU membership).
Justification / Background	This second slide can be used to add longer form information relevant to your proposal. If required to go beyond one slide for this section, please copy and paste a new slide into the presentation file.
Indicator Criteria	For indicator proposals only. Please use this slide to discuss how your proposed indicator relates to the relevant indicator criteria.

Annex 2 – List of received submissions

Submissions, including made by email, were classified into the following categories: Calculation Methodology, Themes for Inclusion (with no mention to specific indicator) and Indicators (inclusions, exclusions and substitutions). Below is a list in alphabetical order, grouped by similarity, followed by the proposer in parenthesis.

Calculation Methodology:

- Avoiding data points estimation (India)
- Growth rates of 5 years for all indicators (India)
- PPP\$ instead of GNIpc (Algeria, India)
- Reference year of publication N-1 instead of N-2 (Algeria, Egypt)
- Scores for groups of countries by similarity (India)

Themes for Inclusion:

- Cybersecurity (Brazil, India)
- Regulatory Environment (India)
- Skills (Brazil)

Indicators for inclusion:

- FTTH subscriptions as a % of total fixed broadband subscriptions (Algeria, India, United Arab Emirates)
- Fixed broadband Penetration, with following denominators:
 - o No mention (Algeria, Brazil, Egypt, Uruguay)
 - o 100 Habitants (Egypt, United Arab Emirates)
- Fixed broadband by Speed tier as a % of total fixed broadband subscriptions, with following Speed Tiers:
 - o No mention (Algeria)
 - o 10Mbps (India)
 - o 10Mbps, 20Mbps and 100Mbps (China)
- Households with Access to Computers (United Arab Emirates)
- International Internet bandwidth by User (United Arab Emirates)
- Mobile Broadband User Speed (China)
- Percentage of population covered by at least 5G mobile network (China)

Indicators for exclusion:

- Mobile Phone Ownership (Russian Federation)

Indicators for substitution:

Annex 3 – Meeting summaries

2024 work programme:

Joint EGTI/EGH subgroup on the ICT Development Index (IDI)

Summary of the subgroup's first virtual meeting, 24 April 2024

- The co-leads of the subgroup, Teddy Woodhouse from Ofcom in the United Kingdom ([cv](#)) and Winston Oyadomari, from NIC.br in Brazil ([cv](#)) introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of the purpose and objectives of the subgroup - including clarification that the subgroup may be renewed on an annual basis if members of Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators (EGH) and the Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators (EGTI) agree. It will provide input and recommendations to EGH and EGTI at their Sept 2024 meeting. They also reminded the group that the current [ICT Development Index methodology](#) will not be revised until the 2027 edition and that outcomes of the subgroup may serve as inputs to the formal revision process.
- The subgroup discussed whether any changes should be made to the [Terms of Reference](#) - members should provide proposals for amendments in writing by 29 April. The co-leads will assess whether amendments are needed based on responses received.
- At the request of the co-leads, the ITU Secretariat provided an overview of the conceptual framework used in the current IDI - based on the concept of universal and meaningful connectivity. Members did not propose any revisions to the conceptual framework.
- At the request of the co-leads, the ITU Secretariat provided an overview of the indicator selection criteria used in the development of the index. The subgroup discussed at a global level some of the challenges with setting criteria including balancing the preference for official data with the need to include as many countries as possible and to measure ICT development using a broad range of indicators. Concerns raised by members about specific indicators will be addressed in subsequent meetings.
- The co-leads requested that members provide any additional comments in writing by 3 May 2024 to provide time to analyze comments and consider how to organize future meetings.
- Comments should be submitted through the dedicated Microsoft Teams channel that is open to all subgroup members. This channel is preferred to posting in the expert group forums as the proposals will be available to both EGH or EGTI members and limited to only those who are members of the subgroup. In the case that member have difficulties using the Teams channel they may send their proposals by email to indicators@itu.int
 - Link: [Joint EGTI-EGH subgroup on the IDI | General | Microsoft Teams](#)
 - Code: hwekexu
- The next meeting will be on 14 May from 14:00-15:30 (CEST). Invitations will be sent in due course.

2024 work programme:

Joint EGTI/EGH subgroup on the ICT Development Index (IDI)

Summary of the subgroup's second virtual meeting, 14 May 2024

- The co-leads explained that the terms of reference (ToRs) of the subgroup were amended based on input received. The final ToRs are now available on the subgroup's Teams channel.
- The co-leads introduced a template for proposing 1) themes, 2) indicators, 3) and additional indicator selection criteria. The template is available on [the Teams channel](#).
- Proposals can be uploaded on the Subgroup's Teams channel or sent to indicators@itu.int.
- The co-leads will contact participants who already submitted proposals and help them complete the template.
- The use of a template makes it easier to keep track of, organize, and discuss the contributions. The co-leads kindly requested to isolate proposals and submit one template for each.
- The co-leads will maintain a [list of contributions](#) on the Teams channel and presented a prototype of the list.
- Participants will be able to provide comments on the proposals.
- The co-leads explained that some of the proposals received were already made during the development of the IDI methodology in 2023.
- When making proposals and commenting on proposals, participants should consider the discussions held at the time. In particular, the subgroup should not re-open discussions on proposals that were not adopted at the time, unless new developments force revisiting the conclusions reached at the time.
- The co-leads reminded that the subgroup makes recommendations to EGTI/EGH meeting but will not make decisions.
- During the ensuing discussion, there were suggestions to consider conceptually relevant indicators for which availability is still low, but which may improve in the next few years.
- The perennial issue of insufficient availability should be stressed when reporting to EGTI/EGH meetings.
- On the issue of data availability, the ITU Secretariat has posted on the Teams channel the link to an [interactive dashboard](#) showing data availability by indicator based on submissions from the long questionnaires 2023.
- The ITU Secretariat will also identify those indicators for which estimates are currently produced.

Teams channel

- Link: [Joint EGTI-EGH subgroup on the IDI | General | Microsoft Teams](#)
(code: hwekexu)

- Contributions can be posted on the dedicated Microsoft Teams channel open to all subgroup participants.¹
- Click on the "Files" tab at the top of the screen and on the "Contributions" folder. Then click on the "Upload" button.
- Access to the Teams channel is based on the list of emails of participants having asked to join the subgroup. The list is updated regularly. Please write to indicators@itu.int if you want to be added to the list.
- Participants who experience difficulties with Teams can send their proposals by email to indicators@itu.int.
- The relevant documents will also be shared by email.

Next meeting

- The third meeting will take place on 5 June, 13:30-15:00 CEST. Invitations will be sent in due course.

¹ This channel is preferred to posting in the expert group forums as the proposals will be available to both EGH or EGTI members and limited to only those who are members of the subgroup.

Expert Group on Telecommunication/ICT Indicators

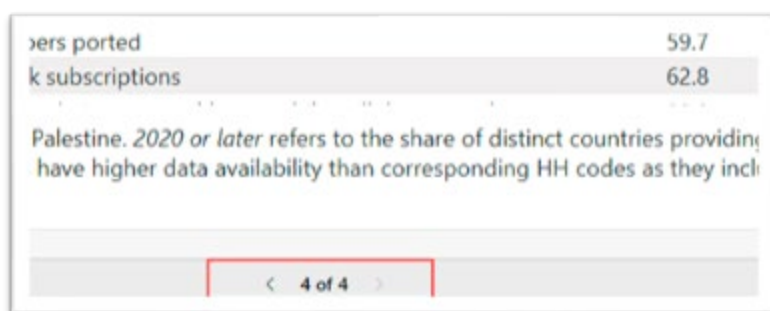
Expert Group on ICT Household Indicators

2024 work programme:

Joint EGTI/EGH subgroup on the ICT Development Index (IDI)

Summary of the subgroup's third virtual meeting, 05 June 2024

- The co-leads welcomed the participants and introduced the agenda
- The ITU Secretariat provided an update on data availability in the context of the identification of candidate indicators for a future IDI.
- The ITU Secretariat introduced a PowerBi [dashboard](#) that reports data availability for all ITU indicators. Where relevant, availability by disaggregation dimensions (e.g., gender, location) is also reported. Click on the page navigation at the bottom of the screen to switch between WTI and Household indicator availability:



- The dashboard reflects the status as of end 2023. It will be automatically updated following the release of the results of the 2024 short questionnaires.
- A discussion on candidate indicators took place, with emphasis on how these indicators align with the subgroup's objectives and the IDI conceptual framework.
- The co-leads reiterated the importance of using the provided template for proposing new indicators to maintain consistency and clarity.
- Affordability. Discussions centered around the affordability of ICT services and the impact on universal connectivity. Participants discussed pros and cons of using data-only mobile broadband basket or high-consumption data and voice basket.
- Skills. The importance of digital skills in the context of ICT development was discussed.
- Cybersecurity: The group addressed the growing importance of cybersecurity and the need for robust indicators to measure cybersecurity readiness and incidents.
- The ITU Secretariat gave an update on the Household Taskforce assembled by the United Nations Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Affairs. The [presentation](#) is available on the Teams channel in the 'Meeting 3' folder.
- Participants were encouraged to stay engaged with the taskforce's activities and incorporate relevant insights into their proposals.

- The co-leads reminded everyone of the next meeting date and the deadlines for submitting proposals (19 June).

Next steps

- Participants are to finalize and submit their indicator proposals using the provided template.
- The next meeting is scheduled, and invitations will be sent out accordingly.

Teams channel

- Link: [Joint EGTI-EGH subgroup on the IDI | General | Microsoft Teams](#) (code: hwekexu)
- Contributions can be posted on the dedicated Microsoft Teams channel open to all subgroup participants.¹
- Click on the “Files” tab at the top of the screen and on the “Contributions” folder. Then click on the “Upload” button.
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- Participants who experience difficulties with Teams can send their proposals by email to indicators@itu.int.
- The relevant documents will also be shared by email.

Next meeting

- The third meeting will take place on 27 June, 13:30-15:00 CEST.

¹ This channel is preferred to posting in the expert group forums as the proposals will be available to both EGH or EGTI members and limited to only those who are members of the subgroup.

2024 work programme:

Joint EGTI/EGH subgroup on the ICT Development Index (IDI)

Summary of the subgroup's fourth virtual meeting, 27 June 2024

The meeting focused on discussing the draft report of activities and various indicators already included in the IDI and others that could be included.

Indicators of high-speed broadband:

- There was a strong interest in including the share of high-speed broadband connections for fixed networks. However, concerns were raised about doing this without a measure of penetration, with some participants emphasizing the priority of penetration rates over speed metrics.
- For mobile broadband, there was no consensus on a suitable speed indicator. It was suggested to consider 5G.
- Some supported using 5G for both coverage and speed indicators, but others felt it was not a good proxy for meaningful connectivity due to limited deployment in many countries.
- There was also a debate on the appropriateness of using private sector data for these indicators. While some proposed partnerships with private companies to measure mobile broadband, others were reluctant due to methodological uncertainties.
- Some participants emphasized the importance of having both speed and penetration indicators to avoid misleading conclusions about a country's connectivity status.

Affordability

- The discussion on affordability centered around whether to use Gross National Income (GNI) per capita or Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). Several members argued that affordability should be measured relative to income (GNI) rather than price levels (PPP). This approach was broadly supported by the participants.
- The conceptual difference between PPP and affordability was clarified: while PPP compares absolute price levels globally, affordability measures how much of a person's income is spent on ICT services.

Devices and connectivity

- The relevance of different devices for meaningful connectivity was debated. Questions were raised about whether a smartphone alone constitutes meaningful connectivity, highlighting the importance of computers in low-income regions where mobile phones are the primary access point.

- Another participant pointed out the need to consider how device ownership correlates with connectivity and skills development. It was noted that computer ownership is lower in low-income areas compared to higher mobile phone usage.

Data timeliness

- Members expressed the need for timely and accurate data, with some suggesting the IDI report be published earlier in the year to enhance its relevance.
- The difficulty of using T-1 data (data from the previous year) was discussed. The secretariat explained the challenges of relying on preliminary data from short questionnaires and the resultant lag in data publication.

Next steps

- The need for further sessions to finalize the report and include feedback was agreed upon, with a plan to present the report at the next major meeting in September.
- The meeting concluded with an agreement to continue refining the draft report, incorporating the diverse inputs from the subgroup members, and ensuring that the final document accurately reflects the collective insights and priorities discussed.

Teams channel

- Link: [Joint EGTI-EGH subgroup on the IDI | General | Microsoft Teams](#) (code: hwekexu)
- Access to the Teams channel is based on the list of emails of participants having asked to join the subgroup. The list is updated regularly. Please write to indicators@itu.int if you want to be added to the list.
- Participants who experience difficulties with Teams can send their proposals by email to indicators@itu.int.
- The relevant documents will also be shared by email.

Next meeting

The fifth and final meeting will take place on 24 July, 13:30-15:00 CEST.