



BDT MEMBER COMMUNIQUÉ

Low-income countries lead in growth as progress continues toward universal and meaningful connectivity

Geneva, 30 June 2025 – The [2025 edition](#) of the ICT Development Index (IDI) shows continued advances towards achieving universal and meaningful connectivity (UMC), with nearly all economies improving their performance.

The average IDI 2025 score for the 164 economies included in the 2025 edition is 78 out of 100, reflecting sustained progress.

On average, low-income countries had the largest relative gains with an average annual increase of 10.9 per cent since IDI 2023, advancing their average score from a low base of 33 points in 2023 to 40 points in 2025. By comparison, high-income countries are approaching UMC and offer limited room for further gains, especially on infrastructure-related indicators; with an average score of 92.

“While Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) often face significant structural challenges, this edition of the IDI sheds light on their evolving digital landscape and the markedly different trajectories within each group,” said Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director, ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau. “As we prepare for the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference to take place from 17 to 28 November, I hope this edition’s findings will deepen understanding of global connectivity trends and inspire renewed commitment to achieving universal and meaningful connectivity.”

The IDI assesses the extent to which a country’s connectivity is universal and meaningful. It enables benchmarking over time and across countries, regions and income groups for monitoring progress, setting priorities, and enhancing accountability.

The Index is composed of ten indicators across two pillars representing the two dimensions of universal connectivity and meaningful connectivity. Scores are measured from 0 (worst possible outcome) to 100 (best possible outcome).

Due to limited data availability and the inherent constraints of index-based approaches, the IDI does not capture all aspects of a country’s connectivity landscape. Stakeholders are therefore encouraged to complement IDI results with additional information, tools, and evidence to gain a more comprehensive and context-specific understanding.

The IDI highlights that wide disparities remain. The range of IDI scores spans from 25 to 99, underscoring persistent digital divides between and within regions and income groups. These disparities highlight the importance of context-specific policies and targeted support.

Other highlights

Improved performance since 2023: The average score of the 159 economies which were included in the IDI since 2023 increased from 74 to 78 points.

Affordability sees major progress: Mobile data and voice affordability improved significantly, especially in low-income countries, though only 64 countries have met the affordability threshold of 1 per cent of GNI per capita.

Regional breakdown (by ITU-D regions): Africa's average IDI score rose by 16 per cent, the highest among all regions. Europe had an average IDI 2025 score of 91, the Commonwealth of Independent States achieved a score of 88, Asia and the Pacific scored 80, the Arab States scored 78, and the Americas scored 77.

No country meets all targets: However, eighteen countries have achieved the maximum score in at least five of the ten indicators.

More information:

IDI 2025 covers 164 economies, accounting for 85 per cent of ITU membership. Coverage is down from 170 in 2024, as several countries did not meet the threshold of five indicators with official data.

- [ICT Development Index dashboard](#) on ITU DataHub.
- [ICT Development Index 2025](#) publication
- [More information](#) about the ICT Development Index

About the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations agency for digital technologies, driving innovation for people and the planet with 194 Member States and a membership of over 1,000 companies, universities, civil society, and international and regional organizations. Established in 1865, ITU coordinates the global use of the radio spectrum and satellite orbits, establishes international technology standards, drives universal connectivity and digital services, and is helping to make sure everyone benefits from sustainable digital transformation, including the most remote communities. From artificial intelligence (AI) to quantum, from satellites and submarine cables to advanced mobile and wireless broadband networks, ITU is committed to connecting the world and beyond.

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