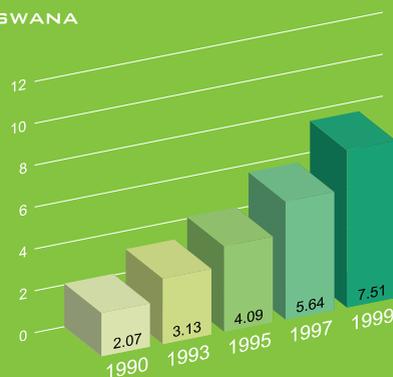
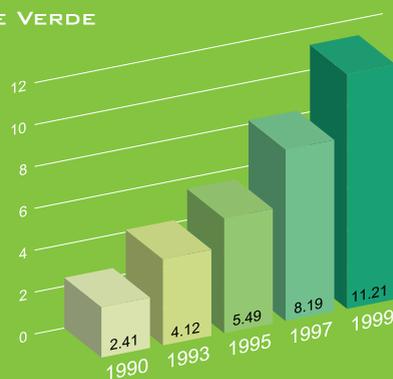


**Main telephone lines**  
per 100 inhabitants

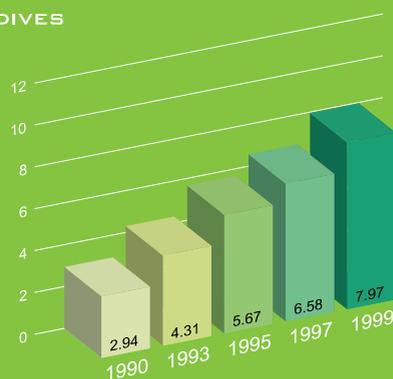
**BOTSWANA**



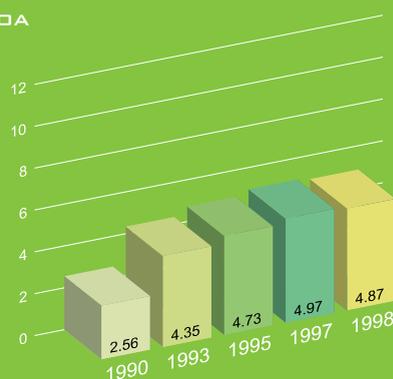
**CAPE VERDE**



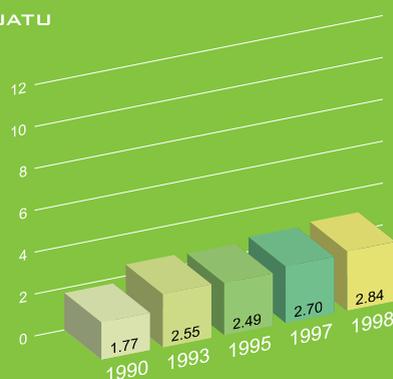
**MALDIVES**



**SAMOA**



**VANUATU**



SUCCESS STORIES

International Telecommunication Union



**International Telecommunication Union**

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**SPECIAL  
PROGRAMME  
FOR THE  
LEAST  
DEVELOPED  
COUNTRIES  
2000-2003**

**MAKING A DIFFERENCE**



The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are defined as low-income countries that are suffering from long-term handicaps to growth, in particular, low levels of human resource development and/or severe structural weaknesses. They are listed as such by the United Nations General Assembly which reviews the list every three years. The next review is in year 2003. Two major developments emerged following the 2000 Review: Maldives is on the verge of graduating from the LDC listing. Its case will be looked at during the 2003 Review. Senegal joined the LDC grouping in 2001.

**THERE ARE NOW  
49 LDCs OF WHICH  
31 ARE FROM THE AFRICA REGION,  
13 FROM THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION,  
1 FROM THE AMERICAS AND  
4 FROM THE ARAB STATES.**

The telecommunication networks and services in most Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are under-developed, thus causing a severe bottleneck to the socio-economic development of these countries. Over the past years, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has provided assistance to this group of countries in various areas of telecommunication development including planning, management, human resource development/management and network expansion and modernization. Most of this assistance was provided on an *ad-hoc* basis to meet particular needs of the requesting Administrations.

### No new gaps

The telecommunication development gap between the haves and the have-nots has been the focus of attention for some time. While bridging that gap remains a long-term objective, what is more important is to reach a "critical mass" that will enable developing countries to have relatively easy access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs). In an increasingly networked global economy, no new gap should be allowed to emerge. A minimum average of around 5 main lines per 100 inhabitants is a reasonable objective to this end.

## Basic indicators

		Main telephone lines				Internet Penetration		Cellular subscribers
		Total population	GDP per capita (USD)	per 100 inhabitants		Users per 10000 inhabitants	Urban Population %	Per 100 inhabitants
				1990	2001			
1.	Afghanistan	22'474'000	522.90 (98)	0.22	0.13 (00)	-	21.00 (98)	-
2.	Angola	13'528'000	684.77 (99)	0.76	0.59	44.35	32.28 (97)	0.64
3.	Bangladesh	140'369'000	264.91	0.22	0.36 (00)	7.28	20.00 (98)	0.15
4.	Benin	6'446'000	368.60	0.32	0.85 (00)	24.60	-	0.91
5.	Bhutan	690'000	664.69 (99)	0.37	1.97 (00)	22.21	7.00 (98)	-
6.	Burkina Faso	12'220'000	186.74	0.18	0.45 (00)	8.38	27.00	0.51
7.	Burundi	6'860'000	119.58	0.15	0.30 (00)	4.48	8.10 (97)	0.24
8.	Cambodia	13'440'000	174.74 (99)	0.04	0.25	7.44	22.00 (98)	1.66
9.	Cape Verde	437'000	1'355.88 (99)	2.41	14.27	274.60	-	7.21
10.	Central Afr. Rep.	3'782'000	311.69 (99)	0.17	0.26 (00)	4.15	39.94 (97)	0.14
11.	Chad	8'135'000	181.92	0.07	0.14	3.92	-	0.25
12.	Comoros	727'000	-	0.75	1.22	34.39	31.52 (97)	-
13.	Dem. Rep. Congo	52'522'000	-	0.09	0.04	0.10	29.34 (97)	0.29
14.	Djibouti	643'000	-	1.10	1.54	51.32	82.58 (97)	0.47
15.	Equatorial Guinea	470'000	1'290.23 (97)	0.37	1.35 (00)	11.32	-	-
16.	Eritrea	3'815'000	191.08 (99)	-	0.84	786.37	18.00	-
17.	Ethiopia	64'460'000	106.04 (98)	0.26	0.48	3.88	14.50 (98)	0.04
18.	Gambia	1'337'000	-	0.67	2.62	134.63	30.40 (97)	2.62
19.	Guinea	8'020'000	-	0.20	0.32	106.73	36.10	0.69
20.	Guinea-Bissau	1'227'000	238.20 (97)	0.62	0.93 (00)	24.97	22.50 (97)	-
21.	Haiti	8'270'000	460.99	0.69	0.97	36.28	33.04 (97)	1.11
22.	Kiribati	80'000	589.68 (98)	1.66	4.03 (00)	121.65	37.00 (98)	0.48
23.	Lao P.D.R.	5'640'000	314.61	0.16	0.93	12.41	21.82 (97)	0.52
24.	Lesotho	2'160'000	417.54	0.72	1.03 (00)	18.58	25.60 (97)	1.00
25.	Liberia	3'108'000	-	0.36	0.21 (00)	1.59	46.16 (97)	-
26.	Madagascar	16'437'000	243.24	0.25	0.36	21.29	27.64 (97)	0.90
27.	Malawi	11'572'000	151.61	0.31	0.47	17.28	10.80	0.48
28.	Maldives	270'000	763.34 (98)	2.93	10.09	370.37	25.70	6.83
29.	Mali	11'678'000	225.02	0.13	0.35 (00)	16.74	28.08 (97)	0.09
30.	Mauritania	2'747'000	368.44 (99)	0.29	0.72 (00)	18.87	49.50	0.27
31.	Mozambique	20'190'000	209.27 (99)	0.34	0.44 (00)	15.24	36.36 (97)	0.26
32.	Myanmar	48'363'000	146.86 (99)	0.17	0.58	2.07	29.04	0.03
33.	Nepal	23'594'000	229.77	0.32	1.16 (00)	21.70	-	0.04
34.	Niger	11'227'000	171.27 (98)	0.12	0.19 (00)	4.66	19.16 (97)	0.04
35.	Rwanda	7'949'000	236.33	0.17	0.23 (00)	6.47	6.00 (97)	0.67
36.	S. Tomé & Príncipe	150'000	-	1.92	3.10 (00)	436.48	44.92 (97)	-
37.	Samoa	180'000	1'305.60	2.56	4.73 (00)	55.52	22.00 (98)	1.69
38.	Senegal	9'662'000	512.12 (99)	0.60	2.45	103.50	45.02 (97)	4.04
39.	Sierra Leone	4'870'000	131.01	0.32	0.47	14.37	38.00 (98)	0.55
40.	Solomon Islands	463'000	556.30	1.46	1.60	43.33	25.00	0.21
41.	Somalia	10'050'000	-	0.17	0.15 (00)	0.21	26.36 (97)	-
42.	Sudan	31'809'000	364.24 (97)	0.25	1.42	17.61	33.00	0.33
43.	Tanzania	35'965'000	257.05	0.29	0.49 (00)	32.75	25.64 (97)	0.51
44.	Togo	4'657'000	282.15	0.30	0.92 (00)	216.03	37.00	1.08
45.	Tuvalu	10'000	-	1.33	5.63 (00)	-	46.00 (98)	-
46.	Uganda	22'525'923	249.61	0.17	0.28	26.64	13.18 (97)	1.43
47.	Vanuatu	201'000	1'273.04 (98)	1.77	3.37 (00)	161.36	19.00 (98)	0.19
48.	Yemen	19'114'000	384.20 (99)	1.10	2.21	8.89	26.06	0.80
49.	Zambia	10'649'000	462.64 (97)	0.88	0.80 (00)	19.19	44.00	0.95