World Summit
on the Information Society
2025
Turning targets into action
Geneva 2003 | Tunis 2005 | New York 2015

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA'S

20-YEAR COUNTRY REPORT

2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the past two decades, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made exceptional progress in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), emerging as a regional and global leader in digital transformation. Guided by Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia has adopted a comprehensive, whole-of-government approach to harness the power of ICTs to drive sustainable development, economic diversification, and social inclusion while actively contributing to global digital cooperation.

The Kingdom has built one of the most advanced and smart digital infrastructures with ICT market reached SR180 billion (USD 48 billion) in 2024, making it the largest digital market in the region. Saudi Arabia achieved 100% internet penetration and ranking 4th among G20 countries in 2024 on median mobile internet speed (129 Mbps). These achievements are underpinned by inclusive public policies and record investments in ICT, including the rollout of nationwide fiber networks, satellite-based connectivity programs, and hyperscale data centers.

At the heart of Saudi Arabia's digital transformation is a commitment to improving the lives of its citizens. Flagship platforms such as Absher, Najiz, Sehhaty, Tawakkalna, and Madrasati have redefined public service delivery across civil services, justice, health, and education, making government more efficient, transparent, and citizen-centric. Saudi Arabia now delivers 97% of government services digitally and has achieved top global rankings in the UN's E-Government Development Index.

Human capital development is another pillar of the Kingdom's approach. With its digital workforce expanding from 150,000 in 2018 to 381,000 in 2024, Saudi Arabia has launched targeted programs to build advanced digital skills, empower women, and cultivate youth leadership. Women's participation in the ICT workforce rose from 7% to 35%, and Saudi women now hold 28% of leadership positions in the sector.

Saudi Arabia's role as a global technology and innovation hub is growing rapidly and has led the region in emerging technologies such as IoT, space connectivity, and non-terrestrial networks. In Leap 2025, it secured over SR56 Billion ($14.9 billion) in artificial intelligence investments. At the same time, sustainability remains a national priority. Through initiatives like the Saudi Green Initiative, C.I.R.C.L.E.S. Roadmap, and the Digital Sustainability Toolkit, the Kingdom is pioneering green ICT strategies and circular economy models that have received international recognitions.

International cooperation is a defining feature of Saudi Arabia's WSIS engagement. The Kingdom has contributed to global discussions aimed at fostering an inclusive, safe, and sustainable digital environment including the active involvement in the development of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and the overall review process of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). It actively supports ITU initiatives such as Partner2Connect and Connect2Recover, and hosted major global forums including the 2024 Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the upcoming 2025 Global Symposium for Regulators. Regionally, Saudi Arabia led the establishment of the Arab Cybersecurity Ministers Council and plays a central role in the Middle East Green Initiative.

Looking beyond 2025, despite significant progress since the launch of WSIS, several Action Line components remain only partially implemented. Continued focus is essential to address these

gaps while preserving the strategic coherence and guiding principles of the WSIS framework. As the digital landscape evolves and the Global Digital Compact (GDC) emerges, continued alignment and cooperation are essential to avoid duplication and maintain coherence while contributing to a more unified and effective approach to advancing global digital development.

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PROGRESS ON WSIS ACTION LINES

Action Line 1 — The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

- As part of Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia has made significant strides in digital development through numerous government-led programs aimed at enhancing national digital infrastructure and services. Notably, the Kingdom's National IT Development Program has injected SR1 billion (US$250 million) into programs and initiatives to support the workforce in accelerating the national digital transformation. These programs have benefited over 2,000 entrepreneurs, nearly 800 startups, created 17,000 jobs, and contributed SR11 billion ($3 Billion) to the GDP.

- The Digital Government Authority's (DGA) Digital Government Strategy 2023-2030, revised in 2025, aims to deliver seamless, citizen-centric and efficient digital services, alongside fostering sustainable development and economic growth. The Strategy closely aligns with the digital transformation goals of the National Vision 2030, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- The Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (MEWA) has implemented ICT across key national strategies to enhance data-driven policymaking, sustainability, and climate resilience. MEWA also advanced strategic initiatives such as tree planting, enforcement, and circular economy adoption—demonstrating the pivotal role of digital technologies in promoting environmental stewardship and achieving the SDGs.

- Mainstreaming ICTs: The Ministry of Economy and Planning has developed a SDG Platform that integrates SDGs data, providing insights into progress at national and regional levels, enabling informed decision-making, and fostering data-driven policy solutions.

- Saudi Arabia's digital economy has reached approximately SR495 Billion ($132 billion), generating new job opportunities in tech-related fields, contributing to employment growth, and skill development. By accounting for more than 50% of the MENA region's digital economy, Saudi Arabia sets a benchmark for neighboring countries. Its success encourages regional collaboration and investment in ICT, fostering overall development.

- The Ministry of Energy Implements Augmented Reality (AR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to modernize fuel station inspections. This smart system guides inspectors through AR-based steps, records responses automatically, and ensures data accuracy and compliance. It improves efficiency, enhances transparency, reduces training time, and aligns with regulatory requirements through seamless integration with external stakeholders.

- Through the Saudi Green Initiative, the Kingdom's ICT ecosystem has implemented practical solutions to enhance digital sustainability, reduce waste and emissions, and promote connectivity and gender equality in the labor force. uniting over 85 initiatives with a total investment exceeding SR705 billion ($188 Billion), SGI is a whole-of-society initiative that empowers all stakeholders in Saudi Arabia to create and innovate to achieve a green future.

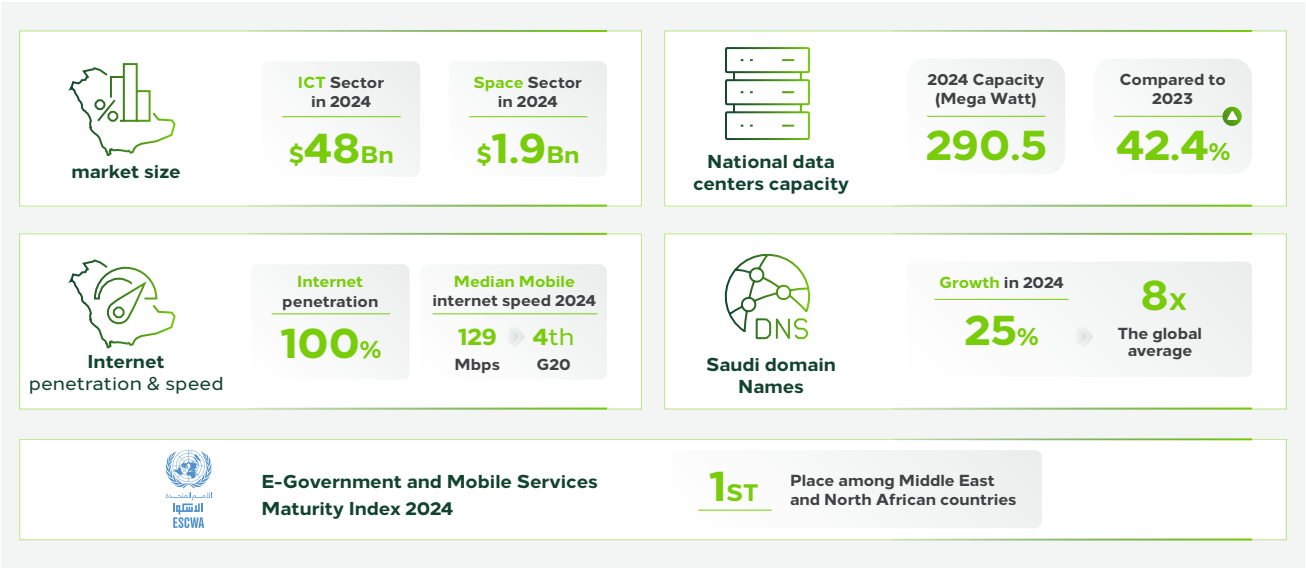
- The Sustainability Champions program, launched by Ministry of Economy and Planning, aims to create a collaborative environment where 19 leading companies in key sectors, including the ICT, to enhance sustainability practices across their industries and value chains. This initiative is a key part of Saudi Arabia's commitment to sustainable development, driving unique partnerships among top companies to revolutionize the Kingdom's sustainability landscape and support inclusive, sustainable economic growth.

- The Kingdom's goal of connecting 3.5 million households was implemented through many national Initiatives, including the Open Access Intitiative which saw all Saudi fixed telecom operators sign mutual agreements to share their FTTH networks, strengthening the physical and digital infrastructure. These initiatives have exceeded its expectations, as it now connects over 3.9 million households. This expanded access to high-speed internet supports digital inclusion, allowing more people to benefit from online services, education, and remote work opportunities.

- In addition, the Kingdom hosts several technology incubator hubs, designed to accelerate technological innovation and entrepreneurship and improve upscaling capacity to serve the national interest. The Garage is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology (MICT), the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), and the Saudi Federation for Cybersecurity, Programming & Drones, and has graduated over 290 startups since its launch in September 2023. This has created over 7,500 jobs and the graduated startups are valued at over SR6.4b ($1.7 Billion).

- The 2025 LEAP conference highlighted significant public-private partnerships, with record investments in the Kingdom's ICT sector. On the first day, investments and projects worth over SR56 Billion ($14.9 billion) in the artificial intelligence sector were announced, including a SR18.75 Billion ($5 billion) investment by NEOM and Datavolt for a sustainable AI center. This underscores the Kingdom's role as a global tech hub focused on sustainable development and human capacity building.

Action Line 2 — Information and communication infrastructure



- KSA's commitment to creating an enabling digital environment is evidenced by investments in digital infrastructure and regulatory reforms to encourage innovation and investment in the ICT sector. The ICT sector's market size reached SR180 billion (USD 48 billion) in 2024, with a CAGR of 7.5% during the period (2019-2024). The space market size in the kingdom has reached SR7.1 billion (USD 1.9 billion) in 2024.

- In 2024, investments in telecommunications and technology reached SR154 Billion ($41 billion), marking a growth of 440% in the space of two years. These investments include the construction of three new hyperscale data centers in Riyadh and three new hyperscale data centers in Dammam. The new data centers will support the Kingdom's digital transformation initiatives, aligning with Saudi Vision 2030.

- Within the Kingdom, the capacity of national data centers increased by 42.4% in 2024 reaching 290.5 MW compared to 204 MW in 2023, reflecting a 326% growth since 2022, when capacity was 68 MW.

- The Kingdom led the way as the first country in the Middle East region to roll out 5G services, ensuring that fiber-optic networks cover over 3.9 million households by 2025. This has enhanced the Kingdom's digital infrastructure, while fostering innovation and economic growth.

- Saudi Arabia achieved 100% internet penetration and ranking 4th among G20 countries in 2024 on median mobile internet speed (129 Mbps).

- In 2024, the annual growth of Saudi domain names reached 25%, equivalent to eight times the global average.

- By 2025, internet penetration in the Kingdom reached 100%. Meanwhile, In the field of e-government, the Kingdom secured first place among Middle East and North African countries in the 2024 E-Government and Mobile Services Maturity Index, published by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). This was measured according to several sub-indicators including Public Outreach indicator where Saudi Arabia achieved a score of (99%).

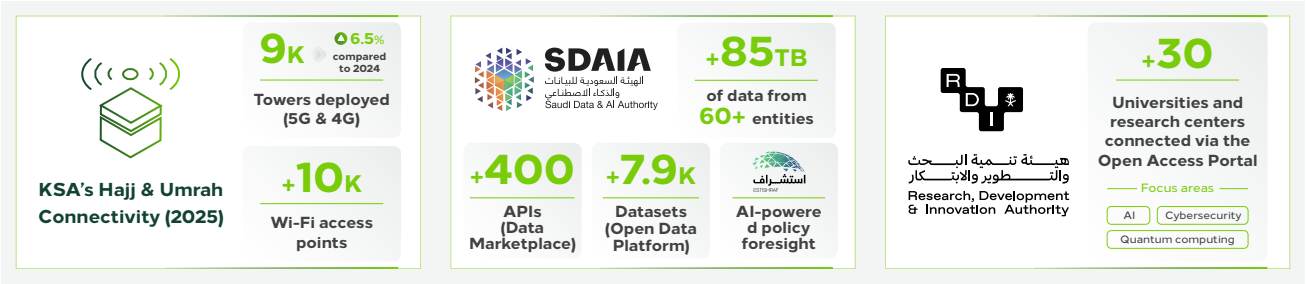
- The region's data center capacity soared from 139MW in 2021 to 348MW in 2024—a 150% increase—with the Kingdom capturing around 83% of the regional market share in this segment.

- Saudi Arabia is actively advancing its broadband network infrastructure by integrating Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTNs) to enhance nationwide connectivity. The Communications, Space and Technology Commission (CST) has initiated the NTN Program, encompassing technologies such as Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites, High Altitude Platform Systems (HAPS), and air-to-ground networks. This initiative aims to provide seamless coverage, particularly in remote and underserved areas, aligning with the Kingdom's Vision 2030 goals. To support this endeavor, CST has established a comprehensive regulatory framework, including the "Regulation for Registration of Telecommunication Space Stations" and "Regulations for Provisioning of Telecommunication Services Over Non-Terrestrial Networks." These regulations are designed to facilitate the deployment and operation of NTN technologies, ensuring a conducive environment for innovation and investment.

- Furthermore, CST has granted licenses to companies to provide telecommunication services over NTNs, focusing on enhancing in-flight connectivity and expanding telecom services to remote areas. Such collaborations are pivotal in achieving the Kingdom's objective of becoming a regional technology hub.

- As part of our commitment to bridging the digital divide, we are expanding efforts to connect the unconnected. Through our ongoing exploration of emerging technologies, such as Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTN), Saudi Arabia is working with the ITU on "Connecting Humanity Through Sustainable, Affordable and Innovative Solutions" initiative. This initiative will help stakeholders identify connectivity gaps and develop solutions for universal connectivity, affordable devices, and essential digital economy skills

Action Line 3 Access to information and knowledge



- Saudi Arabia has invested in digital infrastructure to ensure widespread internet access. This includes expanding broadband networks and improving connectivity in remote areas.

- KSA has enhanced its efforts to promote free Wi-Fi during the Hajj and Umrah seasons. In 2025, KSA deployed 9000 towers supporting 5G and 4G technology, with an increase of 6.5% compared to 2024, along with providing over 10000 WiFi access points in Makkah, Madinah, and the Holy Sites.

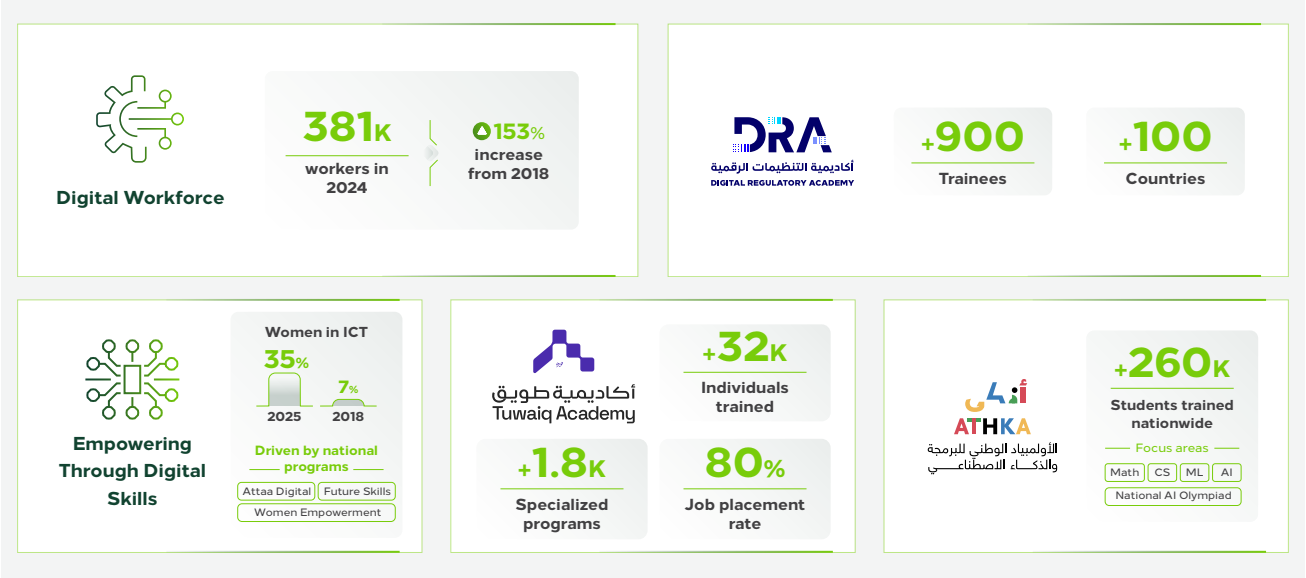
- By revolutionizing public access to information, the Najiz platform and Tawakkalna application offer millions of users swift, innovative, and user-friendly e-services, thereby improving governmental transparency and the dissemination of knowledge.

- The National Data Platform, launched by SDAIA, is a unified ecosystem supporting Vision 2030 through secure data governance, sharing, and innovation. It includes the National Data Lake with 85+ terabytes of data from 60+ entities, a Data Marketplace with 400+ APIs, Collaborative Data Labs, a National Data Catalog, and an Open Data Platform offering over 7,900 datasets. Complementing this, the National Data Bank centralizes high-quality government data, while Estishraf (Foresight) uses AI-driven predictive analytics to support evidence-based policy design. Together, they enable real-time, data-driven planning and foster transparency, innovation, and sustainable development.

- Saudi Arabia has launched several initiatives to promote digital literacy and access to knowledge. The Saudi Digital Library provides a vast array of resources in multiple languages, supporting educational and cultural growth

- The Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA) actively partners with leading global research institutions to facilitate knowledge exchange and joint research projects. These collaborations often focus on cutting-edge ICT areas such as AI, cybersecurity, and quantum computing. The RDAI's Open Access Portal connects researchers and innovators to the research infrastructure available across over 30 universities and research centers in the Kingdom. These efforts are crucial for ICT development, as they foster innovation, support the growth of tech enterprises, and enhance the Kingdom's global competitiveness in the technology sector.

Action Line 4 Capacity building



- The digital workforce of the Kingdom has expanded from 150,000 in 2018 to 381,000 in 2024 – a 153% increase – which positions the Kingdom to accelerate the digital transformation and maximize its benefits.

- Saudi Arabia has invested heavily in digital literacy and skills programs, notably through upskilling initiatives like the Digital Giving Initiative 'Attaa Digital', the Future Skills, and the Women Empowerment programs, which empower citizens with crucial digital skills. Our focus on identifying inclusive digital policies has led to a significant rise in women's participation in the ICT sector with participation increasing from 7% in 2018 to 35% in 2024.

- CST is cultivating a new generation of digital regulators through our Digital Regulatory Academy (DRA). The Academy has launched initiatives to raise awareness and support member states in digital regulation, benefiting over 900 trainees from more than 100 countries. The DRA serves as a pioneering platform that brings together expertise and knowledge to promote practical exchange among countries and highlights Saudi Arabia's efforts in digital regulation internationally.

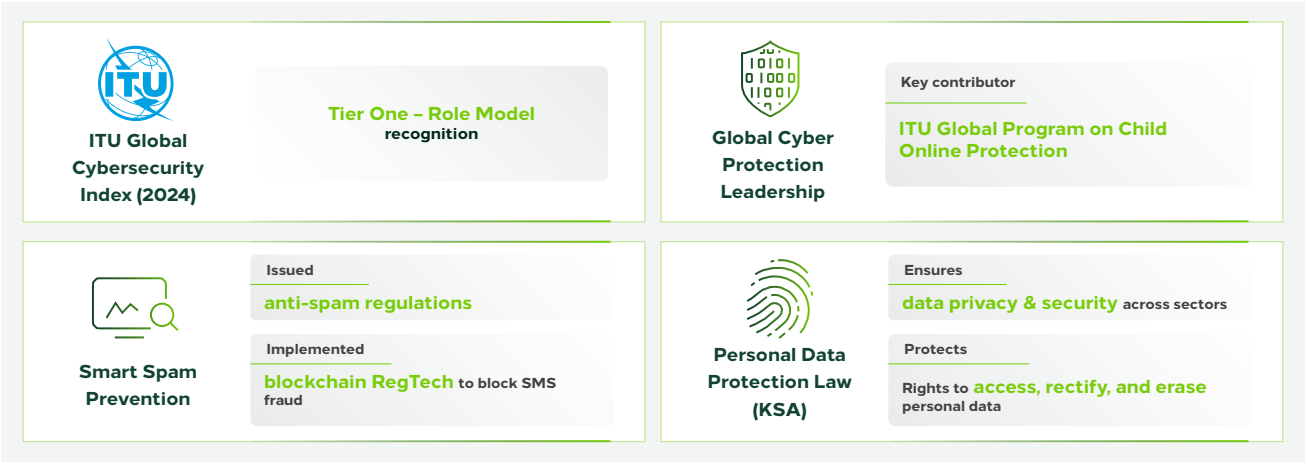
- Tuwaiq Academy, established in partnership with leading global technology companies, has trained over 32,000 individuals through more than 1800 specialized programs. With an 80% job placement rate, the Academy reflects Saudi Arabia's commitment to building national and international tech talent in line with Vision 2030.

- The Sector Council for Digital Sector Skills a multi-stakeholder initiative, aims to support career and skills planning for young professionals and align training and educational programs with labor market requirements. This will help improve the skills of the workforce, bridge skills gaps and shortages and improve labor productivity.

- GAIA represents the first generative AI accelerator in the region, with an investment of SR600 million ($160 million). This initiative is designed to nurture cutting-edge AI startups, enhance digital skills in emerging AI technologies, and further accelerate the Kingdom's digital transformation efforts.

- ATHKA is a nationwide initiative that has trained over 260,000 middle and high school students in mathematics, computer science, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. The program culminates with a national AI Olympiad, which recognizes outstanding students and encourages early engagement in digital and technological fields.

Action Line 5 — Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs



- The National Cybersecurity Authority (NCA) was established in 2017 and is an independent government entity responsible for cybersecurity in the Kingdom.

- The Kingdom is actively developing regulatory tools, toolkits and guidelines to improve national cybersecurity standards and in 2024, the Kingdom was recognized as a Tier One – Role Model in the ITU Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI).

- Through initiatives such as the National Cybersecurity Academy and the CyberIC program, Saudi Arabia has bolstered its cybersecurity capacities that protect digital users and infrastructure. The Academy offers specialized programs, courses and exercise to meet the needs of professionals in critical sectors, and bridge existing cybersecurity skills gaps. Meanwhile, the program focuses on developing specialized national expertise and elevating the cyber preparedness of various national entities. It has empowered around 13,000 individuals in cybersecurity disciplines such as data analysis, encryption, and secure cloud computing

- The Saudi Model for Strengthening Cyber Resilience during the Kingdom's G20 Presidency Year is one great example of how the Kingdom strives to contribute to international collaboration towards cyber resilience in global economic systems.

- The Kingdom also engages in international cybersecurity initiatives, such as the ITU Global Program on Child Online Protection. This global project resulted from the Crown Prince's initiative, the Child Protection in Cyberspace (CPC). This program fosters innovative policymaking and global efforts to implement the ITU Child Online Protection Guidelines.

- Established by Royal Decree in 2023 and headquartered in Riyadh, the Global Cybersecurity Forum (GCF) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to advancing global cybersecurity. Through collaborative priorities, strategic dialogue, and impactful initiatives, GCF works to strengthen cyberspace safety and resilience. It fosters international

cooperation, promotes collective action, and supports the development of policies and solutions that enhance cybersecurity, enable economic prosperity, and push the boundaries of cyber knowledge and innovation.

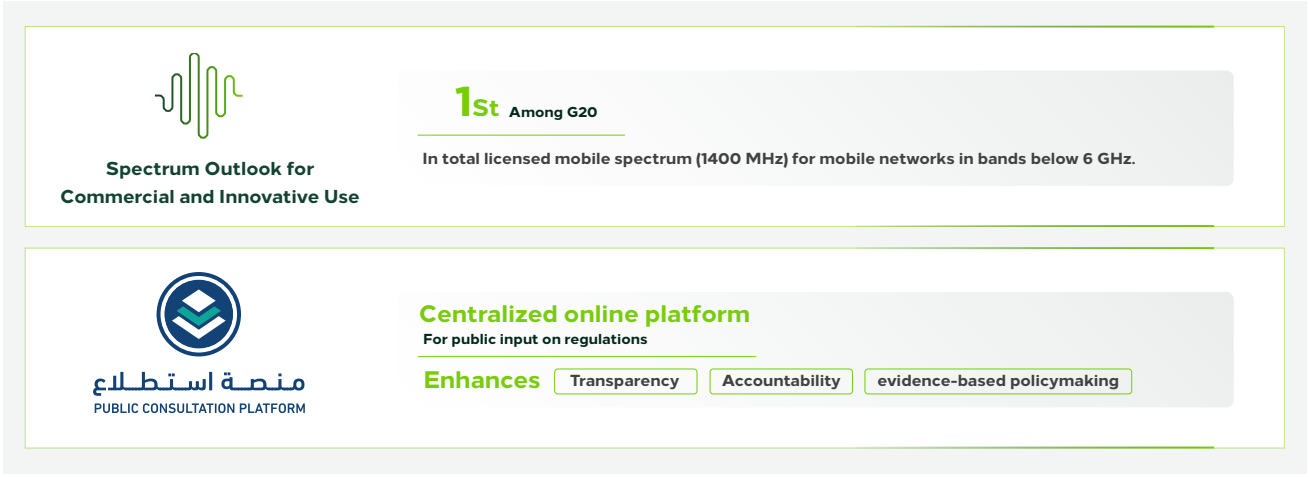
- Examples like the Saudi CERT demonstrate successful deployment of ICT applications to promotes cybersecurity awareness, monitor threats and alerts, and collaborates with national and international entities.

- Saudi Arabia has issued regulations for spam reduction and has supervised the implementation of a RegTech (blockchain) solution to prevent SMS spam and fraudulent messages.

- Through the Caller Name and Identity Display Service, CST has empowered users to reliably confirm the identity of callers, making them better protected and safeguarded against fraudulent calls.

- The Personal Data Protection Law serves as a robust legal framework prioritizing data privacy and security across both public and private sectors. It regulates the collection, processing, and safeguarding of personal data, ensuring that individuals' rights to access, rectify, or erase their information are fully protected. By reinforcing transparency and strict data handling standards, the law significantly strengthens the Kingdom's overall data security landscape.

Action Line 6 Enabling Environment



- Collaborative regulatory approaches adopted by Saudi Arabia have attracted international companies to the Kingdom and increased foreign direct investment. KSA's ICT market is the most rapidly expanding in the Middle East and North Africa region, with the ICT market value soaring to SR180 Billion ($48 billion) in 2024.

- As part of regulatory measures such as the Spectrum Outlook for Commercial and Innovative Use, Saudi Arabia became the first country among G20 in total licenses spectrum (1400 MHz) for mobile networks in binds below 6G GHz. This initiative enhances the socio-economic benefits for Saudi citizens by increasing the efficiency and productivity of the digital economy.

- Government entities within the Kingdom use the "Istitlaa" online platform, as a centralized location for public consultations. It serves as a robust regulatory tool that enhances transparency and accountability by enabling public participation in the legislative process. Through streamlined digital access to proposed regulations and policies, it allows individuals and organizations to contribute feedback, share expertise, and engage in inclusive, informed dialogue—strengthening evidence-based policymaking and regulatory quality.

- By the Law, before government entities issue legislation or regulations with social or economic impact they are required to demonstrate the financial, operation and economic impacts (Regulatory Impact Assessment) when applying the legislation on both public and private sectors.

- The Kingdom has promoted regulatory sandbox environments, including Emerging Technologies, Data & Privacy, and Fintech. This accelerates access to digital markets and enables entrepreneurs to develop emerging technologies that can be leveraged for ICT sustainable development.

- CST's annual ICT Indicators Forum, which in 2025 held its 11th edition, plays a key role in fostering a forward-thinking regulatory environment by showcasing sector performance, discussing digital regulation, and guiding future policy directions.

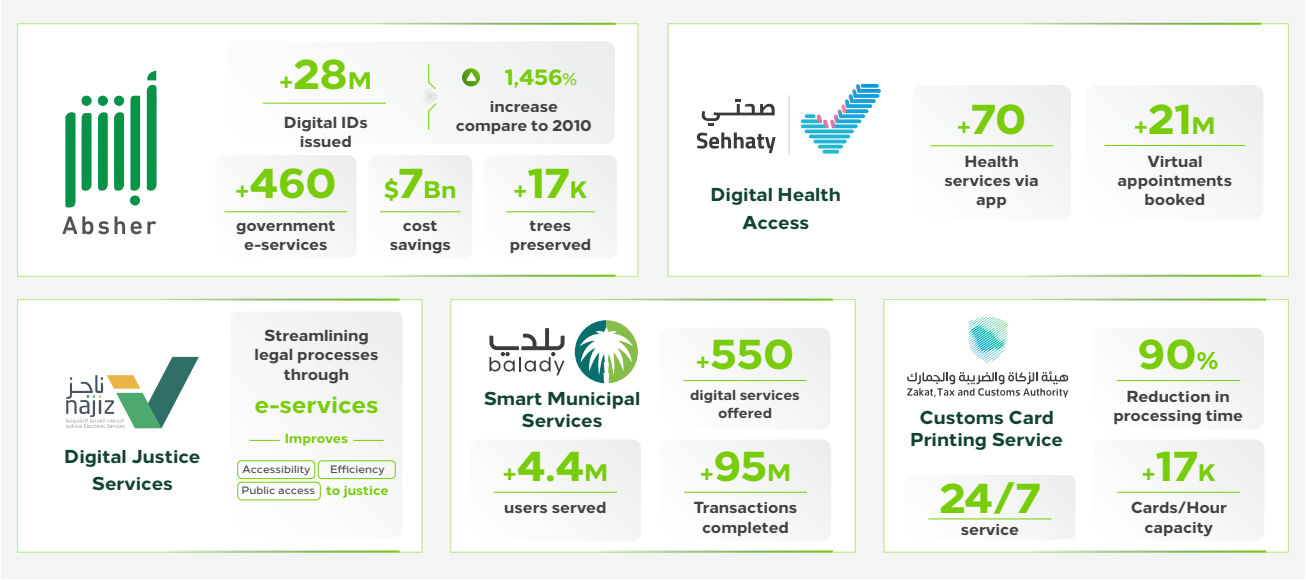
- Saudi Arabia's hosting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in 2024 reaffirms its commitment to fostering inclusive and collaborative discussions on global internet governance, ensuring a secure and equitable digital future for all.

- The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP), in collaboration with the Communications, Space and Technology Commission (CST), has launched a software copyright protection guide to protect software and digital products, enhance awareness, and promote innovation and investment in the IT sector. The guide is a collective effort between SAIP and CST to regulate and safeguard intellectual property in vital areas of the ICT sector, especially in software due to its significant role in enhancing the IT sector and its impact on the economic and investment aspects. The guide also encourages reliance on emerging technologies.

Action Line 7

ICT applications

E- Government | E- Business | E-Learning | E- Health | E- Employment | E- Environment | E- Agriculture | E- Science



- The Digital Government Authority (DGA) was established in March 2021 by Royal Decree No. (A/472) as the central entity responsible for regulating and overseeing digital government activities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Its creation marked a significant step toward unifying and enhancing digital government efforts under one umbrella to ensure efficiency, interoperability, and innovation. As part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, the DGA plays a strategic role in driving the digital transformation of government services.

- Saudi Arabia has made significant strides in e-government. Today, The Kingdome of Saudi Arabia ranked first among the countries of the Middle East and North Africa in the E-Government and Mobile Services Maturity Index for 2024, issued by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). This was measured according to three sub-indicators where Saudi Arabia achieved a score of (99%) in the "Service Availability and Development" indicator, (93%) in the "Service Usage and Beneficiary Satisfaction" indicator, and (99%) in the "Public Outreach" indicator.

- The Kingdom has launched several platforms and mobile applications that offer e-government services:

    - KSA's National Portal provides a personalized, reliable and centralized reference point for all digital government information and services.

    - The Ministry of Interior's "Absher" platform that aims to provide all ministry of interior e-services to indiviuals, business, and government entities. Absher issues digital identities to individuals, which has increased from 1.8 million in 2010 to 28 million in 2024. It has elevated access to more than 460 government digital services with trust, security, and an

advanced, user-friendly experience. Absher's wide range of services, from e-government to e-health, demonstrates the practical benefits of ICT applications in daily life. By reducing paper use, Absher saves over 17,000 trees and achieves SR26 billion ($7 Billion) in direct cost savings. Additionally, it minimizes CO_2 emissions by reducing unnecessary travel, thereby enhancing the quality of life and achieving high efficiency in public and societal spending.

- The Tawakkalna app, developed by the Saudi Data & AI Authority (SDAIA), offers innovative services and that unifies government services in one platform, organizing services, information, documents, and posts to make them easier to use. During the pandemic, the app was a key communication tool for government communication and implementation of public health strategies. It enhances the user experience and contributes to improving quality of life, aligning with the objectives of Saudi Vision 2030

- Najiz platform from the Ministry of Justice has transformed public service delivery, providing legal e-services. This transformation is crucial as it streamlines legal processes, improves accessibility, and increases efficiency, making justice more accessible to the public.

- Nafath, A national platform from SDAIA that provides unified and secure access to various public and private sector platforms through a single digital ID, following high-security measures and international best practices.

- The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) launched an Intellectual Property Rights Platform, that enable users to manage their IP Rights portfolio, including the administration of all types of IP rights including digital IP rights, and IP enablement and IP Respect services, rather than managing IP rights in silos.

- The General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) launched “Ajwaa” platform, providing over 100 e-Services to all beneficiaries. This platform is designed to streamline processes and enhance experience across all sectors.

- The Istitlaa platform is a key digital tool that facilitates public participation in the legislative process, by providing streamlined online access to proposed regulations and policies, it enables individuals and corporations alike to contribute feedback, share expertise, and engage in meaningful dialogue in a transparent and accessible approach.

- The Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture’s e-platform “Namaa” offers over 500 different services. It aims to provide a seamless and efficient experience for beneficiaries, promoting sustainable development goals.

- The Ministry of Health's application "Sehhaty" offers over 70 services. These services include booking appointments, accessing medical reports and sick leave documentation, and receiving real-time consultations. With over 21 million users having booked virtual health appointments through the app, Sehhaty has significantly improved access to healthcare services in Saudi Arabia. The app's success and impact were recognized globally when it won the World Summit Award 2023 in the Health and Wellbeing category.

- The Ministry of Municipalities and Housing operates many digital platforms such as :

  - The digital city platform (Balady) plays a key role in enhancing the quality of municipal services, fostering community engagement in urban development, and improving overall quality of life. Offering more than 550 electronic services, the platform serves over 4.4 million users and has facilitated more than 95 million transactions.

  - "Sakani", a digital housing platform, aims to provide innovative housing solutions that elevate the living standards of beneficiary families, enabling diverse pathways to homeownership and ensuring high levels of customer satisfaction. With a user base exceeding 7 million, Sakani has supported over 3 million beneficiaries with housing assistance.

- The Customs Card Printing service, launched by the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA), digitized the issuance of customs cards, eliminating the need for in-person procedures and significantly improving user convenience. The service achieved a 90% reduction in processing time, operates 24/7, and is capable of processing over 17,000 cards per hour. This initiative enhanced operational efficiency, reduced paper-based costs, and improved user satisfaction.

- The Ministry of Economy and Planning offers DataSaudi, a national data platform that provides real-time access to economic and social indicators. The platform features interactive dashboards, customizable visualizations, and downloadable datasets covering areas such as GDP, labor market trends, inflation, trade, and investment. By enabling data-driven policymaking and public transparency.

- The Tourism Intelligence Center (TIC), established by Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Tourism, plays a key role in enhancing decision-making through real-time research, insights, and data analysis. It provides comprehensive indicators supported by a robust database aligned with global best practices. Since 2024, the Ministry's open data API has received 8,664 calls, reflecting strong engagement and supporting the Kingdom's Vision 2030 tourism goals.

Action Line 7

ICT applications

E- Government | **E- Business** | E-Learning | E- Health | E- Employment | E- Environment | E- Agriculture | E- Science

- The E-Commerce Law in Saudi Arabia is a major legislative achievement that reflects the Kingdom's commitment to building a trusted and well-regulated digital economy in line with Vision 2030. Overseen by the Ministry of Commerce, the law protects consumer rights, ensures transparency in online transactions, and governs critical areas such as advertising, data privacy, and service provider obligations.

- The E-Commerce Council in Saudi Arabia is a pivotal government body established in 2018 under the Ministry of Commerce. Its primary mission is to regulate, develop, and promote the e-commerce sector . the Council ensures a coordinated approach to policy-making, infrastructure development, and regulatory oversight. Key initiatives spearheaded by the Council include the E-Commerce Stimulus Program, which aims to enhance the digital economy by improving logistics, financial technologies, and legal frameworks. Additionally, the Council launched the E-Commerce Register and revamped the Ma'arouf platform, facilitating easier licensing for online businesses and providing consumers with tools to verify store credibility and file complaints. These efforts have significantly contributed to building a trustworthy and dynamic e-commerce environment.

- The Ministry of Tourism's API Marketplace and Developer Platform are integrated with over 5,400 companies. This initiative has improved the quality of hospitality facilities, compliance with tourism regulations, and enabled private sector investment in high-demand tourist areas.

- CST's Manassa Tech initiative establishes a transparent and fair marketplace through the registration and classification of companies, supporting the development of the digital economy.

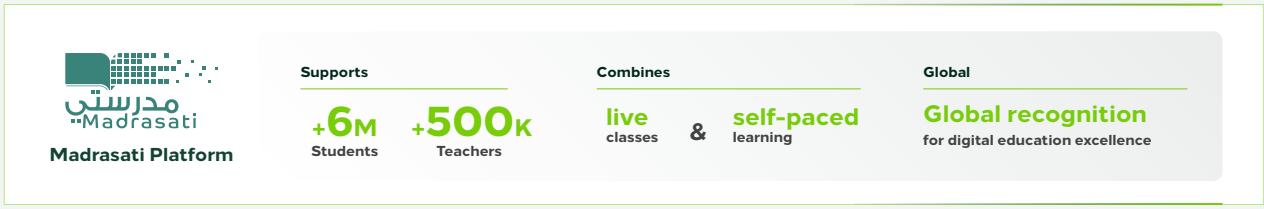
- The National Technology Development Program (NTDP) aims to bolster the Saudi technology ecosystem through innovative financial solutions, empowering SMEs, and nurturing future leaders. As of late 2024, the program has supported over 790 startups in the technology sector and reached investments for supported companies totaling SR4.8 billion($1.3 Billion)

- The E-Invoicing Service, launched by the Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA), is one of the Kingdom's flagship initiatives supporting digital transformation and economic development. The system aims to digitize invoicing processes to improve transparency, compliance, and operational efficiency. The initiative has achieved more than 5 billion e-invoices exchanged and SR3.5 billion ($900 million) worth issued in 2024 alone. The system has enabled significant annual savings of SR3 billion ($800 million) by reducing concealment losses, lowered invoicing costs by up to 80%, and strengthened enforcement, policy decision-making, and public trust in the financial system.

Action Line 7

ICT applications

E- Government | E- Business | **E-Learning** | E- Health | E- Employment | E- Environment | E- Agriculture | E- Science

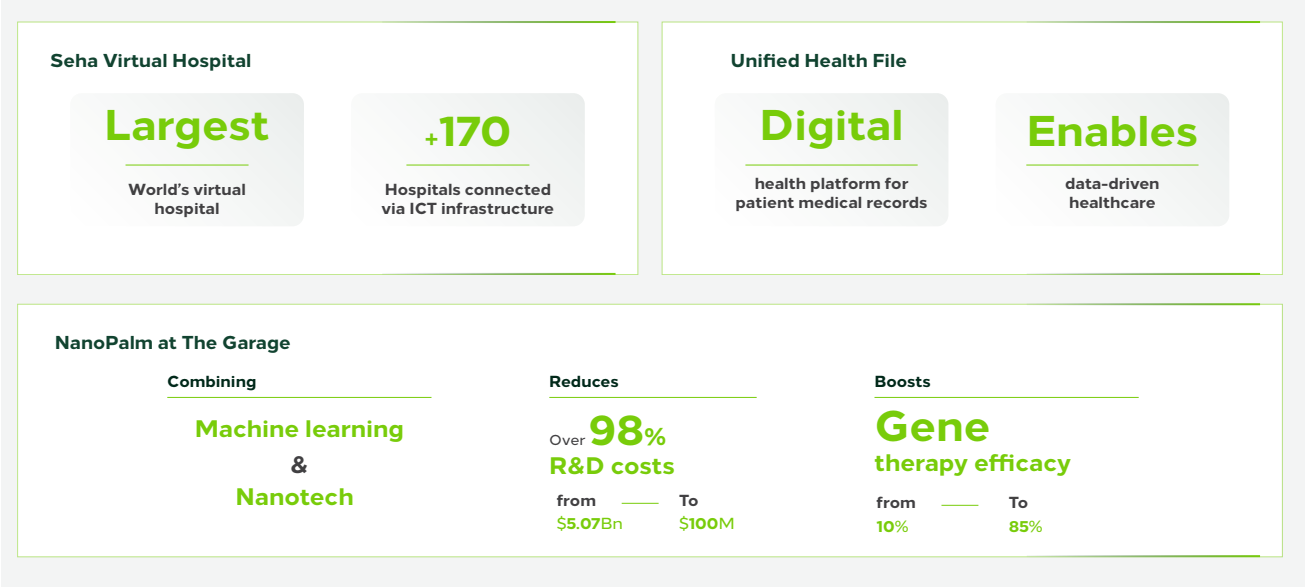


- The Ministry of Education launched the Madrasati platform, a Learning Management System (LMS), which has become crucial for e-learning. It supports over 6 million students and half a million teachers, combining live virtual classes and self-paced learning, and has gained global recognition for its effectiveness and reach. Madrasati offers high-quality e-learning, this LMS allows teachers to deliver their lessons conveniently: lesson preparation ,assignment preparation, quiz preparation, discussion board, technical support, access to education resources ,virtual classes and questions bank. It refines the skills, values and knowledge for students to be in line with the digital requirements that the Ministry is working to develop continuously
- SDAIA's Academy prepares the youth population to enter the labor market in the fields of data and AI, building national competencies. CST's "Madarik" Program aims to develop national cadres, build a sustainable future, and leverage global experts to create diverse career paths in the Space sector.
- The Small & Medium Enterprises General Authority (Monsha'at) offers online and in-person training programs to provide entrepreneurs with the skills and knowledge required to expand their business, ensure sustainable practices, and refine their technical, administrative, and financial skills.
- Designing upskilling programs tailored to professionals: The SEHA Virtual Hospital leverages ICT to train healthcare professionals through remote workshops, continuous professional development programs, and simulation-based learning, fostering equitable access to lifelong learning.
- The Ministry of Culture operates a Culture Learning Hub portal, with over 39 courses covering a range of projects in the field of culture. It aims to enhance knowledge in the culture and arts sector by offering educational pathways for talented individuals and those who wish to develop their creative skills.
- There are several E-auction services for key sectors in the kingdom including the real estate sector. For example, The Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority (ZATCA) has launched an Electronic Auction service that enables users to remotely participate in auctions, enhancing accessibility, operational efficiency, and user experience. Through this platform, users can view auction details, place bids, and complete transactions online without the need for physical presence, thereby promoting transparency and encouraging broader participation from both local and international bidders. Key achievements include the execution of over 1,000 electronic auctions, benefiting more than 5,600 users.

Action Line 7

ICT applications

E- Government | E- Business | E-Learning | **E- Health** | E- Employment | E- Environment | E- Agriculture | E- Science



- The Ministry of Health launched a National E-Health Strategy to oversee the introduction of the electronic health record management system.
    - The Seha virtual hospital was the largest virtual hospital in the world, connecting 170 hospitals through ICT infrastructure and surpassing global benchmarks in virtual healthcare connectivity. This initiative has significantly improved access to specialized healthcare services in remote and underserved regions.
    - For three consecutive years, SEHA Virtual Hospital deployed virtual health services during the Hajj season, using ICT platforms to offer 24/7 virtual critical care. This model ensures safe, timely care for millions of pilgrims. SEHA Virtual Hospital has enabled equitable access to specialist medical knowledge across Saudi Arabia through a secure digital platform that delivers real-time consultations in over 35 specialties.
    - SEHA partners with universities and research bodies to conduct joint clinical research and digital health studies. These collaborations are supported by data-sharing agreements and ICT tools that promote the exchange of medical knowledge and innovation.
    - Unified Health File is a digital health platform, which provides updated data of patients, showing history and type of disease and medicines dispensed, his medical insurance, laboratory testing results, vaccinations, and referrals. The project also contributes to unifying medical records to improve the quality of healthcare and patient safety, the matter which underlines the importance of health data for evaluating performance, automating the healthcare system, exchanging digital information, and saving the patient's previous medical record.

- Naphies Platform is an exceptional achievement in developing the healthcare sector in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The platform is designed to be a digital gateway that facilitates and controls the exchange of healthcare transactions between stakeholders in the healthcare sector. Its high efficiency, absolute transparency, and high data privacy security distinguish the platform. The platform is one of the largest and most massive projects in the history of the Saudi healthcare sector, as it was implemented under the leadership of the Council of Health Insurance and in cooperation with the National Center for Health Information and with the supervision and support of the Ministry of Health.

- SDAIA is integrating AI into healthcare. The "AI in Ophthalmology Hackathon" aims to detect eye diseases early, enhancing treatment plans. SDAIA's "ENENAI" project uses AI to diagnose diabetic retinopathy, helping 846 patients in twelve months. Using AI and data analytics, KSA provides actionable insights to healthcare professionals and administrators. These tools inform patient management, streamline hospital operations, and contribute to a knowledge-based healthcare system powered by data.

- The King Faisal Hospital and Research Center uses 3D printing to improve diagnosis precision and surgical planning, personalizing patient care. This has reduced surgical time by up to 30%, enabled personalized brachytherapy, and enhanced precision in aneurysm cases.

- Saudi Arabia is becoming a tech start-up hub. NanoPalm, based at The Garage incubator, leverages machine learning and nanotechnology to speed up clinical trials and improve gene therapy success. This reduces R&D costs from SR19 Billion ($4.5 billion) to SR375 Million ($100 million) and increases efficacy from 10% to 85%.

Action Line 7

ICT applications

E- Government | E- Business | E-Learning | E- Health | **E- Employment** | E- Environment | E- Agriculture | E- Science

- The Kingdom has the largest digital talent pool in the region, the growth in the number of jobs in the technology sector has been remarkable, with a 6% increase from 351,000 in 2023 to 371,000 in 2025

- Saudi Arabia has presented a pioneering model in empowering women in the digital sector, raising their participation from 7% in 2018 to 35% in 2024

- The "Telework program" is a national initiative by Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (MHRSD) aimed at creating a flexible, local work environment that aligns with global labor market trends. It enhances employment opportunities for remote areas, women, and people with special needs, issuing 204,000 digital employment contracts annually.

- The Future Work Platform aims to utilize community capabilities by defining new types of jobs that adapt to changing needs. It focuses on resilient jobs that leverage unused societal potential, including handicapped individuals and women. This unified platform seeks to unleash potential and energize the gig economy, issuing 690,000 digital employment contracts annually.

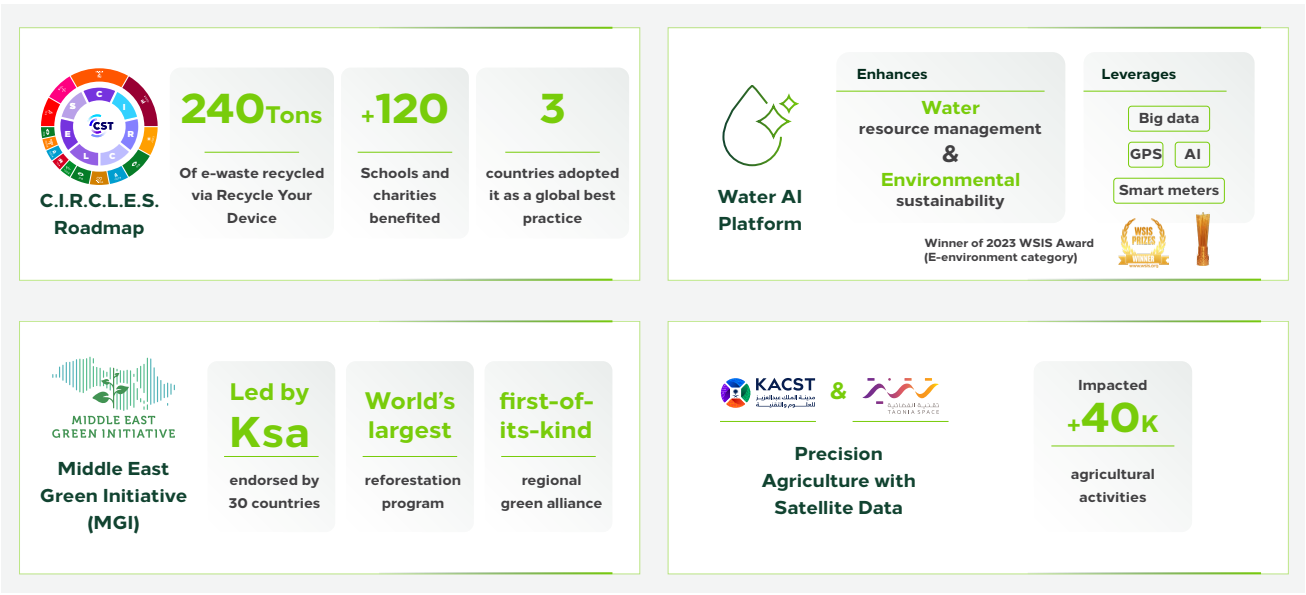
- The Digital System for the Saudi Labor Market (Qiwa), developed by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (HRSD), aims to enhance and modernize labor market services by offering innovative and secure digital solutions. The platform has significantly streamlined procedures by automating services related to employment and labor relations. It currently facilitates the issuance of approximately 1.4 million work permits and the renewal of around 14 million permits annually. Furthermore, it has enabled the processing of over 10 million digital work contracts, highlighting its substantial impact on operational efficiency and user accessibility.

- The National Volunteer Platform A pioneering Saudi incubator for volunteer work that contributes to providing a stimulating environment and regulating the relationship between the providers of volunteer opportunities and volunteers. It aims to support government and non-profit sectors in the Kingdom by facilitating the opportunities to attract cadres of volunteers to practice their volunteer work in a safe environment 1M volunteers and thousands of volunteering opportunities.

Action Line 7

ICT applications

E- Government | E- Business | E-Learning | E- Health | E- Employment | **E- Environment** | E- Agriculture | E- Science



- The Kingdom's ICT ecosystem has implemented practical solutions to enhance digital sustainability, reduce waste and emissions, and promote the circular economy. CST and partner government entities have launched strategies to assess the critical role of the ICT sector in achieving sustainability across socioeconomic sectors such as manufacturing, transportation, renewable energy, and utilities.
    - CST publishes an annual sustainability report for the ICT sector, monitoring and celebrating sustainability concepts within the sector.
    - The Kingdom developed E-Waste Management Regulations with the ITU, which are now being implemented in Rwanda, Zambia, and Paraguay.
    - CST and the Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) collaborated to produce the first of its kind Digital Sustainability Toolkit, supporting nations in crafting a strategic framework to ensure digital sustainability.
- To advance its national sustainability objectives, Saudi Arabia launched the C.I.R.C.L.E.S. Roadmap—a strategic initiative by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) and the Communications, Space & Technology Commission (CST). This framework is built around six pillars: Cutting-edge infrastructure, Innovation, Renewable energy, Circular economy, Leading cities, and Equality and inclusion. A key achievement under this initiative is the "Recycle Your Device" program, which has successfully recycled over 240 tons of electronic waste, benefiting more than 120 schools and charities with the recycled devices. The roadmap has also received international recognition, with three countries adopting it as a best practice for sustainable digital transformation.

- CST leads the "Foster a circular ICT industry" track of the ITU's Green Digital Action, putting digital solutions at the forefront of climate action.

- The Kingdom also launched in 2021 the Middle East Green Initiative (MGI), a first-of-its-kind regional alliance and endorsed by 30 countries. As a G20 economy, Saudi Arabia spearheads this effort to deliver the world's largest reforestation program and advance regional climate. MGI promotes a coordinated response to the region's environmental challenges while fostering economic diversification and private sector investment..

- CST partnered with a global leading technology private company to explore innovative solutions to reduce carbon emissions in the Saudi ICT sector, aligning with the goals of the national Saudi Green Initiative.

- The Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture's (MEWA) Water AI Platform is a transformative digital platform enhancing water resource management and environmental sustainability by leveraging advanced technologies such as big data, AI, GPS, and smart meters. The Platform aligns with Saudi Vision 2030 by promoting environmental and agricultural sustainability, and technological innovation. MEWA received the 2023 WSIS Award for the Early Warning Epidemics System in the E-environment category.

- The Ministry of Energy developed an IoT-based system to monitor solar and wind resources in real time. Using advanced analytics and interactive dashboards, it supports site selection, boosts station performance, and promotes sustainable use of natural resources.

- The Ministry of Environment, Water, and Agriculture (MEWA) leverages AI, satellite imagery, and remote sensing to monitor agricultural land use and manage water resources more effectively. These tools enable MEWA to assess policy impact, track land use changes, and promote sustainable water usage. As part of the Saudi Green Initiative, AI also helps identify degraded land for reforestation and supports national efforts to combat climate change and enhance environmental sustainability.

- The Ministry of Economy and Planning runs the global Carbon Capture and Utilization Challenge, which leverages emerging technologies to drive industrial decarbonization and broader climate mitigation efforts. Solutions derived from these initiatives can significantly contribute to industrial decarbonization alongside current climate mitigation efforts by the Kingdom.

Action Line 7

ICT applications

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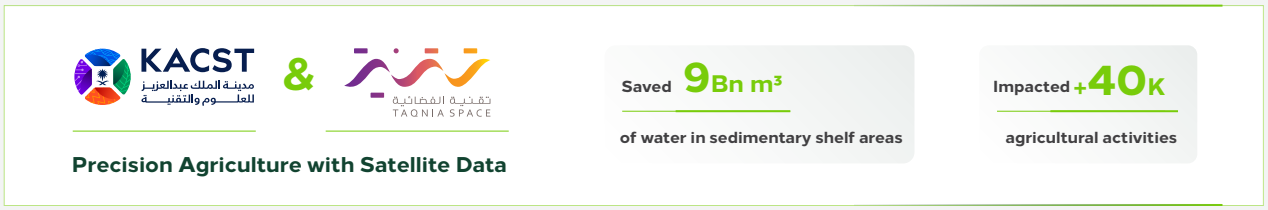


- The Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (MEWA) has developed strategies to leverage ICT for effective data collection across the water and environmental sectors to enhance the sustainability of their practices. The integration of these sectors promotes sustainable resource use and enhance food security, in alignment with the goals of Saudi Vision 2030 for comprehensive and sustainable development.
- Several tech startups are actively seeking to bring digital innovations to the agricultural sector:
    - For example, the King Abdullah City of Science and Technology (KACST) and TAQNIA collaborated to compile agricultural data using satellite imagery and field validations, to enable precise management and monitoring of field crops. It saved 9 billion cubic meters of water in sedimentary shelf areas, impacting 40,000 different agricultural activities.
- Several MEWA programs, such as the Agricultural Development Fund, provide financial support to projects that utilize technology innovations to modernize farming techniques and water management.
- Through the Saudi Center for Remote Sensing, Saudi Arabia leverages satellite data for agriculture, water resources, and urban planning, significantly advancing its Earth observation capabilities to enhance resource management and environmental monitoring.
- The Ministry of Economy and Planning, in collaboration with over 17 stakeholders, launched the "Food Ecosystems in Arid Climates Challenge" to address food security challenges in water-scarce environments through innovative ICT solutions. As part of its broader efforts, MEP also, runs the Smart Climate Farmers Challenge, which seeks to leverage digital technologies to develop climate-smart agricultural practices that enhance food production and ensure the sustainable management of available resources.
- The HSR Platform, part of the Naama digital services initiative, is a nationwide project rolled out in phases to comprehensively map and monitor agricultural, livestock, poultry, fishery, apiary, and well-related activities across Saudi Arabia. Utilizing advanced technologies such as drones for rapid and precise field surveys, the platform consolidates data into a central database. By providing an integrated inventory and analytical system, the HSR Platform enhances agricultural planning, supports food security, and contributes to the Kingdom's broader goals of sustainable rural and environmental development.
- Saudi Arabia is upgrading its vegetation monitoring using AI, geographic information systems (GIS), and remote sensing technologies to track land use, assess agricultural suitability, and support policy decisions. Spearheaded by MEWA and the National Center for Vegetation Development, the system analyzes satellite data to monitor vegetation cover, evaluate afforestation progress, and detect land degradation, aligning with the Saudi Green Initiative

Promote data collection for scientific research:

- The Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA) plays a pivotal role in advancing e-science by forming strategic partnerships with leading global research institutions to enable knowledge exchange and co-develop frontier research. These collaborations emphasize emerging ICT fields such as artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and quantum computing. Through its Open Access Portal, RDIA provides seamless access to cutting-edge research infrastructure distributed across more than 30 universities and research centers in the Kingdom. By integrating digital platforms into the scientific process, RDIA is accelerating knowledge creation, supporting innovation-driven startups.

- KSA is advancing its national space sector. In 2023, two Saudi astronauts travelled to space. Rayyanah Barnawi, the first female Arab astronaut to travel to space, conducted 11 scientific experiments focused on stem cell and breast cancer research.

- The Human Space Flight Program (HSF) in the Kingdom prepares Saudi cadres to become professional astronauts and conduct key research related to physical science, human health, biology, biotechnology, and tech development.

- To promote space sustainability, Saudi Arabia hosted the first Space Debris Conference (SDC) with the ITU as a partner and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) as a content partner. The conference highlights new technologies and methodologies for tracking and mitigating space debris, Attracting broad international participation, from over 50 countries. These efforts aligns with e-science, which emphasizes the role of advanced technologies in scientific research.

Action Line 8 — Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity, and local content

- The Ministry of Hajj and Umrah has used advanced ICT to improve services for pilgrims, creating platforms like Nusuk, a digital platform that enhances the pilgrimage experience through real-time, multilingual support. This effort also preserves cultural heritage by offering content in multiple languages, including sign language. In 2024, 18.5 million Muslims from more than 200 countries used the Nusuk application to plan their pilgrimages.

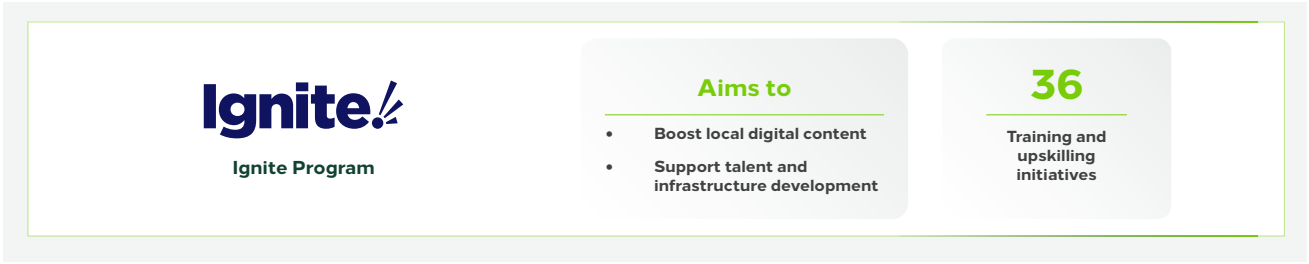
- SDAIA produced ALLaM, which has been recognized as one of the world's leading Arabic generative language models. The model has been trained on hundreds of millions of articles in both Arabic and English.

- The Ministry of Culture's Digital Library Platform hosts more than 27 million knowledge resources, available for borrowing. There is a specific focus on promoting the Arabic reading culture, and this library has been compiled in collaboration with leading Arabic book providers.

- The Human Rights Commission's Jeetk platform enables access to users via video conferencing, facilitating remote consultations and sign language support to beneficiaries.

- Mowaamah, a program by the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development (HRSD), supports the Kingdom's disability rights strategy. It aims to provide job opportunities and necessary tools for people with disabilities and encourages inclusive work environments across all sectors.

Action Line 9 Media



- Launched by the Digital Content Council, the Ignite program aims to boost the production of local digital content across the media landscape. It offers support in infrastructure development, talent development, and supports policy and regulation development. The program's that encompasses 36 initiatives, focuses on training and upskilling local talent to help build a robust media workforce, which is essential for a vibrant and diverse media landscape

- The Meqyas Initiative improves internet speed and access to digital content and e-games in the Kingdom. Faster internet speeds and better access to digital content enable users to access a wider range of information and media resources more efficiently.

- The safety of digital users in the Kingdom is paramount and our commitment to tackling the proliferation of harmful and false information online is evidenced by the “Regulations for Providing Digital Content Platform Services” document. By ensuring transparency and establishing clear rules and requirements for service providers, the regulations help protect users from harmful and false information, contributing to a safer digital environment

Action Line 10 Ethical dimensions of the Information Society

- SDAIA established an International Center for AI Research & Ethics (ICAIRE) in Riyadh, which is classified by UNESCO as a Category II International Centre. ICAIRE's efforts include coordinating AI R&D, promoting awareness of AI ethics, fostering AI skill development, and offering policy advice on AI.

- The Personal Data Protection Law is a comprehensive framework that governs the collection, processing, and protection of personal data across both public and private sectors. It ensures data protection in the Kingdom and upholds individuals' rights to access, correct, or delete their data, thereby enhancing transparency and security.

- SDAIA has produced several guidelines and frameworks to ensure the safe, ethical development and deployment of AI in society. This includes the AI Ethics Principles, GenAI Guidelines for the Public and Government, the Deepfake Guidelines, and the Generative AI Guidelines for Government Entities. These comprehensive measures collectively support the ethical development of AI, fostering a trustworthy and inclusive information society.

- The Ehsan Platform, launched by SDAIA, exemplifies the ethical use of digital technologies to advance the common good. As a secure and transparent national platform for charitable giving, Ehsan has enabled over SR11 billion ($3 Billion) in donations through more than 200 million transactions since 2021, directly benefiting over 4.8 million individuals in critical areas such as healthcare, housing, education, and debt relief. By offering features like one-click donations, Zakat calculation tools, and real-time impact tracking, the platform fosters social solidarity and equitable support across the Kingdom. Ehsan reflects how ICTs can be responsibly leveraged to promote human dignity, reduce disparities, and contribute to inclusive national development in line with the values of Vision 2030.

Action Line 11 International and regional cooperation

- Saudi Arabia has been a key partner of implementing and actively supporting the WSIS process, including the continuous sponsorship of the annual WSIS forum. The Kingdom has demonstrated its commitment to promoting sustainable development through advanced digital and ICT initiatives, using technology as a catalyst for achieving the SDGs

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has consistently supported international and regional frameworks and efforts that harness the potential telecommunication/ICTs. A recent example is Saudi's active involvement in the development of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and the overall review process of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Through its active participation, the Kingdom has contributed to global discussions aimed at fostering an inclusive, safe, and sustainable digital environment. Saudi Arabia continues to collaborate with international and regional partners to strengthen cooperation, exchange experiences, and promote collective progress toward a more connected and resilient digital future. These efforts reflect the Kingdom's ongoing commitment to supporting multilateral initiatives and working closely with the international community to achieve shared goals in the digital domain.Since joining the ITU in 1949 and becoming a Council member in 1965, CST plays an active role within the ITU and is one of the largest financial contributors.

- Saudi Arabia actively supports the ITU's Partner2Connect and is proud of its Connect2Recover initiative with the ITU, aiming to enhance accessible, affordable digital infrastructure in beneficiary nations.

- The Kingdom is active on a regional and global level in driving sustainability efforts, the Middle East Green Initiative Is an embodiment of such efforts.

- Saudi Arabia hosted the 19th annual Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in 2024, bringing together 11,749 registered participants from 75% of UN member states, reflecting broad global engagement. This hosting reaffirms Saudi Arabia's commitment to fostering inclusive and collaborative discussions on global internet governance, ensuring a secure and equitable digital future for all.

- Saudi Arabia was selected to host the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR) in 2025, it features thematic sessions bringing together regulators, policy makers and digital stakeholders from around the world and providing a global platform for knowledge exchange around the topic "Regulation for sustainable digital development".

- The Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) collaborates with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to enhance the IP ecosystem in Saudi Arabia.

- The Arab Cybersecurity Ministers Council was established in 2024 following a proposal by Saudi Arabia and endorsed by all Arab countries. The council is tasked with formulating general policies, strategies, and priorities to advance joint Arab efforts in cybersecurity. Its objectives include enhancing collaboration, coordinating efforts among Arab states on cybersecurity issues, sharing knowledge and expertise, and safeguarding member states' interests in international cybersecurity organizations.

3

NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND POLICY DOCUMENTS

Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 was launched as a roadmap for national development in tandem with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Vision 2030 has resulted in unprecedented reforms in the public sector's operating model, the economy, and society.

One of the key strategic objectives of Vision 2030 is to develop the digital economy and enable digital transformation. To do this, the Saudi government developed fundamental national policies and strategies with active involvement of stakeholders:

Entity Responsible

Vision 2030

Launched in 2016, Saudi Vision 2030 is set to revolutionize the Kingdom by diversifying the economy, decreasing oil reliance, and fueling growth in areas such as education, health, and tourism—all driven by a digital transformation. Our vision is based on the following three pillars: a vital society, a thriving economy, and an ambitious nation. These pillars are integrated to achieve the objectives of the Kingdom.

Entity Responsible

وزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Telecommunication and Information Technology Act

The Telecommunication and Information Technology Act of Saudi Arabia, issued on June of 2022. This Act succeeds the previous Telecommunications Act of 2001 and establishes a comprehensive legal framework for regulating the Kingdom's telecommunications and information technology sectors. It aligns with Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, aiming to foster digital transformation, innovation, and robust infrastructure development.

Entity Responsible

وزارة التجارة
Ministry of Commerce

E-Commerce Law

The Saudi E-Commerce Law provides a clear legal framework for online business activities, aiming to boost trust, protect consumers, and promote digital trade in line with Vision 2030. It outlines key requirements for service providers, including registration, transparency, data protection, and fair advertising, while granting consumers defined rights and enabling enforcement through penalties for violations.

Personal Data Protection Law (PDLP)

Entity Responsible

SDAIA
الهيئة السعودية للبيانات والذكاء الاصطناعي
Saudi Data & AI Authority

A comprehensive framework consisting of 43 articles that governs the collection, processing, and protection of personal data across both public and private sectors. It ensures data protection and upholds individuals' rights to access, correct, or delete their data, thereby enhancing transparency and security.

Digital Economy Policy in the KSA

Entity Responsible

وزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Digital Economy Policy is a road map that clarifies the Kingdom's directions for government agencies, the private sector, and the international community in fileds related to the digital economy. This leads to encouraging investment, accelerating local technical leadership and to attracting international partnerships based on transfer of expertise and cooperation in the field of innovation and technical and digital transformation.

MCIT's ICT Sector Strategy 2023

Entity Responsible

وزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Focuses on enhancing digital infrastructure, fostering innovation and R&D, improving tech skills and workforce diversity, boosting the ICT sector's economic impact, and strengthening governance and partnerships.

Digital Government Strategy 2023-2030

Entity Responsible

Digital Government Authority
هيئة الحكومة الرقمية

This strategy aims to transform government services through digital innovation, aligning with the Saudi Vision 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

National Cybersecurity Strategy

Entity Responsible

الهيئة الوطنية للأمن السيبراني
National Cybersecurity Authority

Through this Strategy, NCA established an integrated cybersecurity framework in the Kingdom, focusing on six areas, including information sharing and partnerships.

National E-Health Strategy

Entity Responsible

وزارة الصحة
Ministry of Health

The goal of the National E-Health Strategy by the Ministry of Health (MOH) is to enhance the quality and efficiency of health services through digital transformation.

National Strategy for Data & AI (NSDAI)

Entity Responsible

SDAIA
الهيئة السعودية للبيانات والذكاء الاصطناعي
Saudi Data & AI Authority

Aims to position the Kingdom as a global leader in data-driven economies by leveraging data and AI to drive economic and social benefits

Youth Development Strategy

Entity Responsible

الموارد البشرية والتنمية الاجتماعية

This strategy works to empower youth in the social development sector and coordinate efforts among various relevant parties within a unified system, thereby contributing effectively to achieving common goals.

C.I.R.C.L.E Framework

Entity Responsible

CST
هيئة الاتصالات والفضاء والتقنية
Communications, Space & Technology Commission

The framework guides the ICT sector on its sustainability journey, with a focus on equality and inclusion, aiming to promote an inclusive digital future for all.

National Technology Development Program (NTDP)

Entity Responsible

وزارة الاتصالات وتقنية المعلومات
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

NTDP is a national program that contributes to developing the technology ecosystem in the Kingdom and increasing its effectiveness by driving sustainable growth using different interventions and support mechanisms complementing efforts made by others stakeholders.

Digital Sustainability Toolkit

Entity Responsible

CST
هيئة الاتصالات والفضاء والتقنية
Communications, Space & Technology Commission

This toolkit represents the Kingdom's commitment to investing in the green economy, addressing climate change, and exchanging expertise while adopting best practices for a sustainable society.

4

KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS

Digital Infrastructure

$48Bn ICT Market (2024)
KSA sets a **regional benchmark** in digital ecosystem development

100%
Internet Penetration (2024)

129 Mbps median mobile internet speed

4th among G20 in median mobile speed 2024

1st among G20 in total licensed mobile spectrum (1400 MHz) for mobile networks in bands below 6 GHz

2nd among G20 in Telecommunication Infrastructure Index (TII) of the EGDI

Digital Upskilling

381K digital workforce in 2024, a +154% increase from 2018

+170K individuals trained in future skills

DRA
(Digital Regulatory Academy)

+900
trainees

+100
countries

Digital Transformation

6th globally in the UN E-Government Development Index (EGDI) 2024, achieving a 25-position historic leap

7th globally and **5th out of G20 economies** in the UN 2024 E-Government Participation Index

1st among MENA countries in the UN's ESCWA Government Electronic and Mobile Services (GEMS) Maturity Index 2024

2nd among G20 countries in the ITU ICT Regulatory Tracker 2024

"Leading" in the The Benchmark for Fifth Generation Digital Collaborative Regulation (G5 Benchmark)

Other International Benchmarks

Tier One – Role Model recognition

in ITU Global Cybersecurity Index (2024)

14th globally and **1st** in the Arab world

in the Global AI Index (2024) by UN Advisory Body on AI

5

EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

Women in the Workforce

35.4% overall female labor participation, up from 21.2% in 2017

35% of women in ICT today, up from just 7% in 2018, outpacing global averages

28% of digital economy leadership roles held by Saudi women

Building Future Tech Talent

+750K trained by **SDAIA Academy** in data & AI

1,800 graduates from Tuwaiq Academy across **29 countries**

Space Scholarship & Madarik Programs shaping next-gen space experts

Elevate – Women Focused Initiative

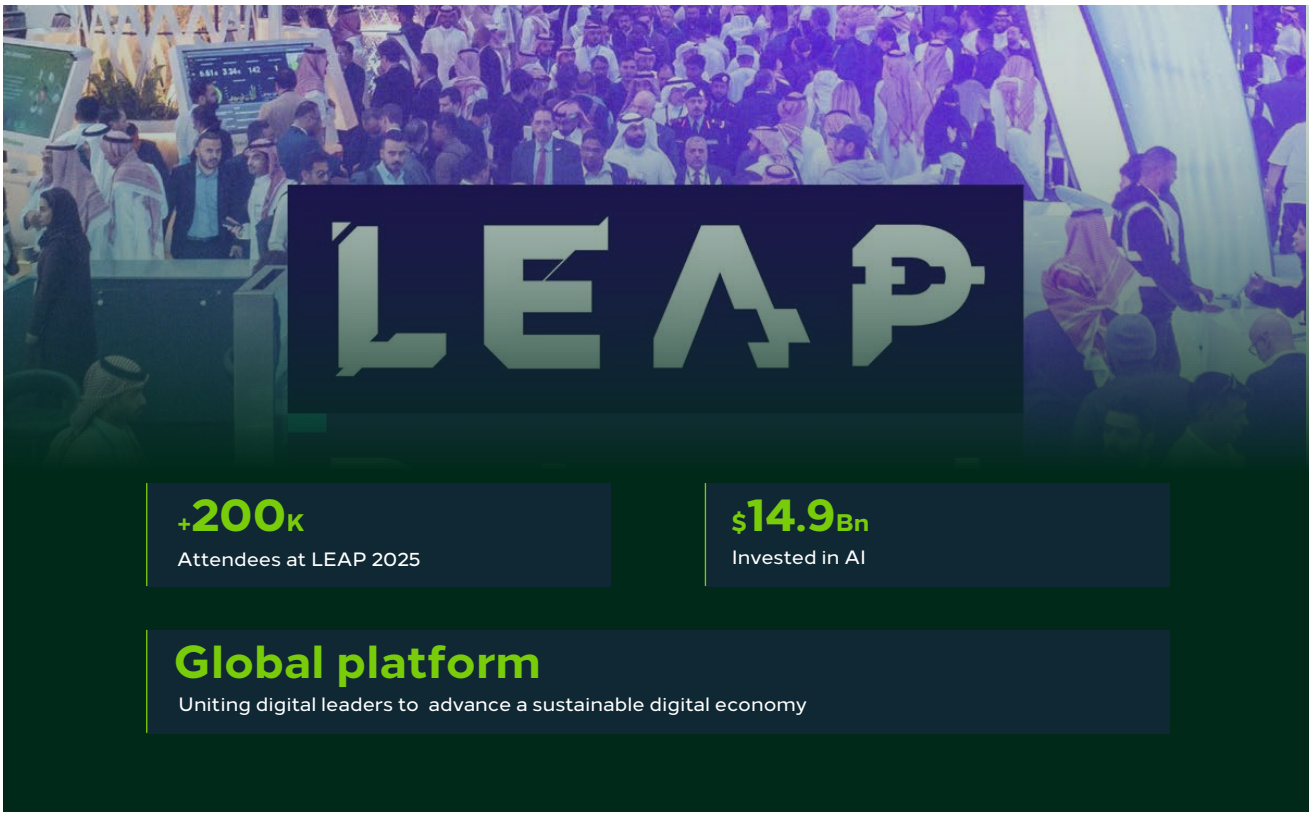
+1,000 women from **28 countries** empowered with AI skills

6

EVENTS AS DRIVERS OF DIGITAL INNOVATION

Digital transformation and innovation are central to the aims of the Kingdom's Vision 2030, as digital infrastructure and upskilling are key to improving government efficiency, developing the digital economy, attracting investment, and ensuring social inclusion.

The Kingdom has also committed to host major global events, which have played a key role in accelerating digital innovation particularly by actively promoting the integration of digital technologies and solutions across various economic sectors



LEAP: The annual LEAP technology conference, held in Riyadh, serves as a dynamic platform for showcasing cutting-edge innovations and fostering strategic partnerships across sectors such as artificial intelligence, fintech, edutech, smart cities, health technology, gaming, and space. LEAP convenes global leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, and policymakers to shape the future of technology. The 2025 edition attracted over 200,000 participants and witnessed landmark announcements, including over SR50 billion ($14.9 billion) in AI-related investments. reinforcing the Kingdom's ambition to position itself as a global technology hub committed to innovation, sustainability, and human capacity building.

SAUDI 2034

15 High-Tech

Stadiums Across Saudi Arabia

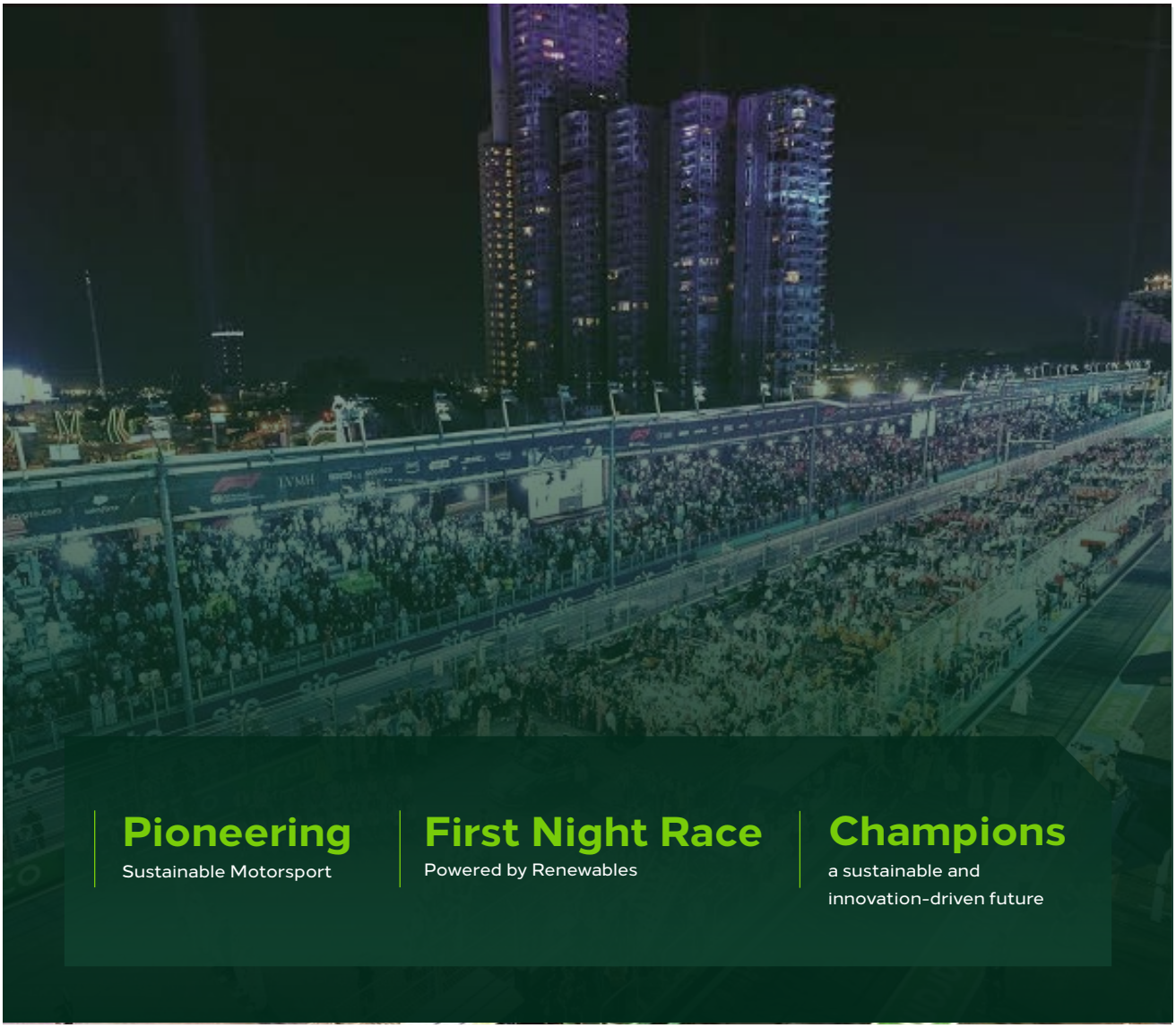
Futuristic Infrastructure

for Fans Includes NEOM's stadium, cliffside venues, and sustainable electric transport.

FIFA World Cup 2034: Following its official selection as the host of the 2034 FIFA World Cup, Saudi Arabia is planning a technologically advanced and sustainable tournament aligned with Vision 2030. The Kingdom will build or renovate 15 state-of-the-art stadiums across major cities, integrating cutting-edge features such as digital twin technology, 5G connectivity, immersive AR/VR experiences, and energy-efficient designs. Landmark projects include NEOM's futuristic stadium and the Prince Mohammed bin Salman Stadium perched atop the Tuwaiq Mountains on the edge of a cliff. high-speed railway networks and advanced, electric forms of transport will enhance sustainability and accessibility. These initiatives aim to deliver a world-class fan experience while positioning Saudi Arabia as a global tech and innovation hub.

Expo 2030: Under the theme, “The Era of Change: Together for a Foresighted Tomorrow, " the conference aligns with several of the WSIS Action Lines, including efforts to bridge the digital divide, enhance capacity building, and integrate digital solutions across economic sectors. Expo 2030’s three pillars leverage digital innovations to serve humanity in medicine and healthcare, combat climate change, and address socio-economic inequalities.

Esports World Cup: The Kingdom hosts the annual Esports World Cup, which integrates various technologies, including Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and AI, to create immersive experiences for players and fans. This fosters innovation in these technologies, which can then be applied to other contexts in the entertainment, tourism, and education sectors, particularly in e-learning platforms for students.



Formula E: The world's premier electric single-seater racing championship, represents a transformative shift in motorsport by promoting sustainable innovation and clean energy mobility. Since hosting the first-ever Formula E race in Riyadh in 2018, Saudi Arabia has played a pioneering role in advancing this vision. The Kingdom's Diriyah E-Prix, held annually against the backdrop of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Diriyah, has become a flagship event in the Formula E calendar. Saudi Arabia was also the first country to host a night race powered entirely by renewable energy, reflecting its broader commitment to environmental sustainability and Vision 2030 goals. Through initiatives like this, the Kingdom not only showcases cutting-edge electric vehicle (EV) technology but also signals its intent to lead in the global transition toward a green, innovation-driven future

7

FUTURE DIRECTIONS AND AREAS FOR COLLABORATION AND VISION BEYOND 2025

Saudi Arabia's vision for WSIS beyond 2025 focuses on fostering a sustainable and inclusive digital future. It emphasizes digital transformation and innovation as key drivers of economic and social development, guided by WSIS Action Lines to ensure equitable and sustainable growth.

By promoting the use of emerging technologies such as AI, IoT, and Non-Terrestrial Networks, Saudi Arabia aims to enhance various sectors, including healthcare, education, and governance.

Inclusivity and accessibility are central to this vision. Saudi Arabia is committed to ensuring that digital transformation benefits all segments of society, particularly women and youth. Enhancing digital literacy and skills is crucial to bridging the digital divide and empowering individuals to participate fully in the digital economy.

Aligning WSIS initiatives with the UN SDGs is another critical aspect of Saudi Arabia's vision. By leveraging ICT to promote sustainable development, Saudi Arabia aims to address global challenges such as environmental sustainability and the digital divide. This includes promoting green technologies to secure the future of the global space economy.

Collaboration with stakeholders is vital to accelerating progress towards these goals. Saudi Arabia will continue to encourage active participation from multiple stakeholders to ensure diverse perspectives are considered and inclusive decision-making processes take place. Regular consultations and forums on issues related to the Information Society will remain a priority for gathering input and fostering cross-sectoral collaboration.

Capacity building is an area where Saudi Arabia believes collaboration can make a significant impact. By working with international organizations and private sector partners, Saudi Arabia aims to provide training and resources for digital skills development. Supporting initiatives that enhance technical expertise and innovation capabilities is crucial for driving progress. Saudi Arabia will continue partnering with regional and global research institutions, recognizing that R&D plays a pivotal role in addressing emerging challenges in the digital landscape and developing new technologies and solutions that support WSIS goals.

Despite the global notable progress in implementing WSIS Outcomes, significant challenges remain in translating digital potential into inclusive, secure, and sustainable development. A growing gap in access to emerging technologies like artificial intelligence risks excluding many and hindering equitable digital progress. At the same time, the misuse of ICTs , from cybersecurity threats to disinformation and online abuse , poses serious challenges. Addressing these interconnected issues requires the continued relevance of all WSIS Action Lines, which together provide a strong foundation for inclusive, secure, and resilient digital development.

While considerable progress has been achieved since the launch of WSIS, several components of the original Action Lines remain only partially implemented. Sustained attention is required to

ensure that these outstanding objectives are addressed in a manner that maintains the strategic coherence and normative value of the WSIS framework. Continued engagement with the WSIS process post-2025 will be essential to fully realize its vision and to adapt to the evolving digital landscape.

Moreover, aligning the WSIS and GDC processes is essential to prevent duplication of efforts and promote coherence. Strengthening their integration will enhance coordination, improve resource efficiency, and contribute to a more unified and effective approach to advancing global digital development.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